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AFGHANISTAN

Violence wears on in Helmand

Afghan forces face Taliban onslaught after US Marines' recent departure

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — An onslaught by hundreds of Taliban militants across a region of southern Afghanistan only recently vacated by U.S. Marines is testing the ability of government forces to secure the country's most volatile areas ahead of NATO's imminent withdrawal.

While years of operations by international and Afghan forces have left the Taliban largely restricted to guerrilla-style operations, the offensive in Helmand province comes as the Afghan government seeks to



AFGHANISTAN NEWS

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prove that it can prevent insurgents from expanding their influence by force.

For nearly the past week, as many as 800 insurgents staged attacks across several districts in Helmand province, including the strategic district of Sangin, Afghan officials said.

Taliban fighters began attacking police checkpoints in Helmand's Sangin district on Sunday, forcing the government to send

reinforcements to bolster the local security forces, according to The Associated Press.

Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi told the AP on Wednesday that the clashes had spread to three other districts, Kajaki, Musa Qala and Nowzad.

"What's scary is that for years there was a direct correlation between the presence of foreign troops and the levels of violence," said Graeme Smith, senior analyst with the International Crisis Group.

SEE ONSLAUGHT ON PAGE 3



A handcrafted legacy

Homemade firearms embody Afghan fighting history

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Nisar Ahmad, 22, shows examples of a finished replica pistol and one he is still working on at his workshop in Kabul. The tradition of making firearms by hand in Afghanistan dates to before the fight against British armies in the 19th century.

JOSH SMITH/Stars and Stripes

Kerry issues warning after Syria bombs Iraq

By SAMEER N. YACOB
AND LARA JAKES
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry warned Middle East nations on Wednesday against taking new military action in Iraq that might heighten sectarian divi-

sions, as reports surfaced that Syria launched airstrikes across the border and Iran flew surveillance drones over the neighboring country.

A senior Iraqi military official confirmed that Syrian warplanes bombed militants' positions Tuesday in and near the border crossing in the town of Qaim. He said Iraq's

other neighbors — Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Turkey — were all bolstering flights just inside their airspace to monitor the situation. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

SEE WARNING ON PAGE 9



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We have learned that pilots must understand and command automation, and not become over-reliant on it. The pilot must always be the boss."

— acting National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Christopher Hart, after a hearing on the July 2013 crash of an Asiana Airlines 777 while landing in San Francisco

See story on Page 10

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EUROPE

NATO backs Ukraine defense help

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — NATO foreign ministers endorsed a series of support measures to bolster Ukraine's defense capabilities in areas such as logistics, cyberdefense and command and control, the alliance's top official said.

Foreign ministers met Wednesday to discuss the crisis in Ukraine, which has soured relations between NATO and Russia.

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen called on Russia to stop its support of pro-Russia militants operating in Ukraine and to cease sending weapons into the country to arm them.

"This is a real opportunity to de-escalate the crisis caused by Russia's aggression, and Russia must step back in line with its international obligations," he said at a news conference at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels.

Russia's upper house of parliament on Wednesday, at the request of President Vladimir Putin, canceled a resolution allowing use of force in Ukraine after Ukraine declared a cease-fire with pro-Russian separatists.

In addition to measures taken to strengthen NATO's partnership with Ukraine — a nonmember state — the alliance discussed future NATO enlargement. Rasmussen said NATO remains com-



Courtesy of NATO

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said Wednesday that Russia should stop its support of pro-Russia militants operating in Ukraine and stop sending weapons into the country to arm them.

mitted to adding Montenegro and Georgia in the years ahead, despite Russian objections.

Russia has long viewed NATO's push east as a threat to its own security, but Rasmussen said those fears are misplaced.

"Our summit in Wales in September will mark that success and maintain the momentum," Rasmussen said at the start of talks on Wednesday. "And let me be clear: NATO's door remains open. And no third country has a veto over NATO enlargement."

Still, the decision to bring more

countries under NATO's security umbrella remains controversial. A senior diplomat to NATO, speaking on the customary condition of anonymity, said there is resistance among several member states that see any NATO enlargement as unnecessary antagonism toward Russia.

Rasmussen, at the conclusion of talks Thursday, also called for a credible political transition in Afghanistan where a dispute over the results of the recent presidential election persists. Such a resolution is needed for the Afghan

government to move forward with a long-term security deal with the U.S. and NATO — a prerequisite for a post-2014 training mission in Afghanistan. That mission will involve about 9,800 U.S. troops and likely between 2,000 and 3,000 NATO troops.

Final numbers, however, on NATO troop contributions from allies have not been reached, Rasmussen said.

"I am not able to provide any exact figures for this stage, but I can confirm a number of nations have already come forward with concrete announcements. This will not only be a U.S. mission."

The unrest in Iraq also was discussed by allies, which are concerned about the potential ripple effects on member state Turkey, which borders Syria and Iraq.

"I can assure you that NATO allies stand together in solidarity and unity and we are focused on providing effective defense and protection of all our allies including Turkey," Rasmussen said.

NATO last year deployed Patriot missiles in response to a Turkish request for air defense support aimed at countering a potential strike from Syria.

"And we will not hesitate to take the next steps to ensure effective defense and protection of Turkey," Rasmussen said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Slobodan Leticic contributed to this report. vandiver.john@stripes.com

Russia annuls sanction for use of force in Ukraine

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — On Russian President Vladimir Putin's demand, the upper house of the Russian parliament on Wednesday canceled a resolution allowing the

use of military force in Ukraine, a move intended to show Moscow's eagerness to de-escalate tensions and avoid a new round of Western sanctions.

Putin had said his request, made a day earlier, was intended to help support the peace process in Ukraine, which began Friday with a weeklong cease-fire. Putin needs to show his support for Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's peace plan ahead of Friday's European Union summit, which is set to discuss new sanctions against Russia.

The cease-fire, however, appears to be in jeopardy, repeatedly interrupted by fighting.

Local residents said fighting was raging as recently as Wednesday morning around the city of Slovyansk where at least one woman died when a mortar bomb tore through the roof of her house. AP reporters who visited Slovyansk saw fresh damage from the fighting and witnesses said that rebels fired on government forces' positions just outside the city, drawing retaliatory fire that damaged some residential buildings.

On Tuesday, Poroshenko warned that he may end the truce ahead of time after rebels, who had pledged to respect the cease-fire, used a shoulder-fired missile to down a Ukrainian military he-

licopter, killing nine servicemen.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel told lawmakers Wednesday that Putin's move to rescind the permission for using military force in Ukraine was an "important psychological point," but that progress toward a solution remains slow and EU is still prepared to increase sanctions.

Two previous rounds of U.S. and EU sanctions imposed asset freezes and travel bans on members of Putin's inner circle over Russia's annexation of Crimea. The next round, which would impose penalties for entire sectors of the Russian economy, could be far more crippling.

Correction

In the June 23 story on the U.S. Forces Korea commander's name being used in an email and Facebook scam, the wrong rank was given for Gen. Curtis "Mike" Scaparrotti.

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MILITARY

Onslaught: Afghan forces defending key area from the Taliban

FROM FRONT PAGE

Operations by coalition forces generally led to higher levels of fighting as foreign troops launched offensive operations and insurgents found plenty of targets to attack, he explained. "But now we're seeing continued escalation in violence even as the number of foreign troops diminishes. This fighting season is shaping up to be as bad as 2011," when the U.S. troop surge in Afghanistan came to a close.

The last U.S. Marines pulled out of Sangin last month, after more than three years of bloody fighting. Before that, British troops also took high casualties in an attempt to subdue a stubborn insurgency in the Taliban stronghold.

There were conflicting casualty counts as the fighting continued on Tuesday.

Omar Zwak, a spokesman for Helmand's provincial governor, told Stars and Stripes that at least 40 Taliban had been killed and another 40 injured.

At least 22 Afghan soldiers and police had died, along with more than 30 civilians, he said.

Interior Ministry spokesman Siddiq Siddiqi put the number of Taliban dead at about 100. The offensive resulted in "no major loss of territory," he asserted.

Some 2,000 families were reported to have been displaced by the fighting.

By Tuesday, Zwak said, the Taliban thrust had been blunted and government reinforcements had arrived and were beginning clearing operations.

Sangin and surrounding areas are situated just north of the urban areas of Kandahar and Lashkar Gah, in Helmand.

The relatively fertile area along the Helmand River has been a base of support for the Taliban and other insurgents.

"The main reason the insurgents wanted to capture strategic points in Sangin was that it would allow them to threaten other districts," he said.

"But they were pushed back."

Qari Yousaf Ahmadi, the spokesman for the Taliban in southern Afghanistan, offered a different account, claiming that only five insurgents had died while inflicting more than 50 casualties on the Afghan National Security Forces.

He said that the insurgents held ground in Sangin, Kajaki, and Nawzad districts.

"Our target is not only capturing these districts, but giv-

ing a blow to the enemy," he said.

Militants concentrated on trying to capture the Sangin district government center, which would be a symbolic blow to the central government, said a Taliban commander, who spoke to Stripes on the condition that his name not be used for his own security.

"There are some enemy check posts in the higher locations that are still resisting, but we focus on capturing the district center, because if we capture the center, the remaining areas will come under our control easily," he said.

Citing Afghan officials, a spokesperson for NATO's International Security Assistance Force said all checkpoints in Sangin are under ANSF control.

The U.S.-led coalition said that it was providing support to the Afghan national security forces in the area over the past 72 hours, including helicopter escorts for medical evacuations, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets and close air support. "All checkpoints in Helmand are currently under ANSF control and this remains an ANSF-led operation," the coalition said in an emailed statement to the AP.

The area is crucial for the Taliban because it serves as an economic hub that allows the insurgent group to maintain control over the drug trade, said the ICG's Smith.

"Unfortunately, we predicted district centers would come under pressure because the Afghan forces are stretched fairly thin and it's difficult for them to move things logistically as supply lines get stretched and the Taliban cut off the roads," he said.

In previous years, international troops and special air power, were able to prevent the Taliban from massing their fighters, said Smith, who spent many years living in southern Afghanistan.

That kept insurgents from overrunning urban centers, but it led to more guerrilla-style warfare.

"Even though [international troops] succeeded in holding those capitals, it stirred up a lot of resentment," Smith said.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.

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NOGA AHERMAN/Stars and Stripes

Study: DOD is struggling to provide mental health care

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Nearly a third of veterans seeking care for post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries drop out of treatment, citing a lack of improvement and dissatisfaction with medical providers, according to a new study that reflects the military's ongoing struggle to bolster its mental health services.

In the survey of more than 3,100 veterans, commissioned by the American Legion, almost 60 percent of those who received behavioral counseling reported that their symptoms stayed the same or worsened during treatment.

The figures were similar among veterans prescribed medication to cope with PTSD and TBI, with 52 percent claiming their condition went unchanged or deteriorated.

Amid deepening concerns that medical providers are overprescribing drugs for veterans, more than half of the survey's participants reported having five or more prescriptions.

More than 20 percent said they take 10 or more prescribed medications.

Though limited in scientific scope and depth, the study, conducted by Data Recognition Corp., presents a snapshot of care received by veterans and their perceptions of that treatment, which included

a wide range of behavioral health therapies.

The responses suggest that efforts by the military and the Department of Veterans Affairs to strengthen behavioral health care are yielding mixed results.

The survey showed that more than 40 percent of those who quit treatment did so because their condition had failed to improve or they had grown frustrated with their provider.

Other reasons included side effects of treatment, the distance needed to travel to appointments and the stigma associated with seeking mental health care.

The study was released Tuesday at an American Legion symposium on PTSD and TBI. It follows a report issued last week by the Institute of Medicine that questioned the efficacy and tracking of PTSD treatments offered to veterans by the VA and Department of Defense.

The institute's report described DOD's PTSD programs as "ad hoc, incremental and crisis-driven, with little planning devoted to the development of a long-range, population-based approach for the disorder."

While VA programs are more cohesive, the report stated, "there are few data to indicate that PTSD-related performance measures are being met."

Army: Bergdahl reintegration could be complete in 2 weeks

By CHRIS CARROLL

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl has not admitted to any wrongdoing during the weeks of debriefings he has undergone since his May 31 release by the Taliban, Army officials said Wednesday.

Bergdahl is undergoing reintegration treatment at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to help him deal with the effects of five years in captivity.

That process could be finished within two weeks, said senior Army officials who spoke to reporters at the Pentagon on the condition of anonymity.

He's currently on temporary duty medical leave to receive treatment, but remains a member of 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, based at Fort Richardson, Alaska, officials said.

Because the priority is recovery, he has not been questioned about the circumstances of his 2009 disappearance from a remote outpost in Afghanistan's Paktika province, officials said.

However, a spontaneous admission that he voluntarily left would be usable in legal or disciplinary proceedings, they said.

Should he make an incriminating statement, debriefing would end and he would be informed of his legal rights, including the right to representation, officials said.

Bergdahl has not been questioned about the circumstances of his 2009 disappearance from a remote Afghan province

But as of now, Bergdahl has not requested a lawyer and has not yet been informed of his rights under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, they said. Former members of his unit have charged that soldiers were killed and injured during operations — including searches — that resulted from his disappearance.

"The focus of the reintegration briefing is on point of capture forward," an Army official said. "We have no reason to believe he has engaged in any misconduct. You don't advise an individual of his or her rights until you believe they've engaged in criminal misconduct."

Once reintegration ends, he'll likely be questioned by Army investigators attempting to piece together what happened before and after his disappearance.

A preliminary 2009 investigation by the Army concluded he walked off his post.

The Army last week appointed a two-star general to begin a new investigation to delve further into the matter. The results are due in August.

A key question the investigation will seek to answer is whether Bergdahl should be classified as having been a prisoner during his ordeal, or if he was absent

without leave or a deserter.

The decision on whether to charge him with wrongdoing will be made by a senior Army commander reviewing of the current investigation, which must be completed by mid-August.

If Bergdahl is found to have been AWOL, or a deserter, penalties could range from a court-martial and jail time to being administratively separated from the Army with an other-than-honorable discharge.

"The military justice system doesn't have strict rules about how cases are supposed to be handled, so you could potentially have a deserter who just gets an administrative discharge," Eugene Fidell, who teaches military law at Yale University, told Stars and Stripes earlier this month.

The determination of his status during those five years of captivity will have an effect on his pay, however. If he's found to have been a prisoner, he's eligible for hundreds of thousands of dollars of back pay and prisoner of war benefits.

If he deserted or was AWOL, he'll end up owing the military for pay he accrued during captivity.

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PACIFIC

Hannam Village closure begins

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The first of several facilities at Hannam Village will shut down this weekend, a sign that the planned closure of the Seoul military housing complex has begun.

The AAFES Express Shoppette at Hannam Village will close Saturday and will be followed by the closure of the complex's gym on Aug. 1 and the commissary on or about Sept. 30, said U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan spokeswoman Nikki Maxwell.

All tenants are required to vacate Hannam by Nov. 1, and the facility will close on Nov. 30, she said.

The military's lease for the 512-unit complex, which houses accompanied servicemembers largely stationed at Yongsan, expires at the end of December.

The scheduled closure is part of U.S. Forces Korea's gradual efforts to move troops in and north of Seoul to regional hubs south of the capital. Most Army forces

will move to Camp Humphreys, a once-sleepy helicopter base in Pyeongtaek that is undergoing a massive expansion.

Built in the early 1980s and about a 10-minute drive from Yongsan, Hannam Village — which also includes two playgrounds and a bull field — underwent a massive overhaul in 2009-10. It has been the subject of complaints from residents about the quality of the facilities and the condition of government furnishings. Military officials have said the planned closure of Hannam was not linked to maintenance or other concerns.

It was unclear how many families now live at Hannam, but nearly 380 units were occupied as of November 2013. Incoming families assigned to Seoul that would have been eligible to live at Hannam Village will live on off-post housing, garrison officials have said.

Katherine Hammack, the Army's assistant secretary for installations, energy and environment, told Stars and Stripes in the spring that the \$10 billion-plus Hum-



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY ROWLAND/Stars and Stripes

Above: Hannam Village is scheduled to close later this year as part of U.S. Forces Korea's gradual relocation to Camp Humphreys. **Right:** A notice posted outside the Hannam Village shopping center announces the upcoming closure of the AAFES shoppette.

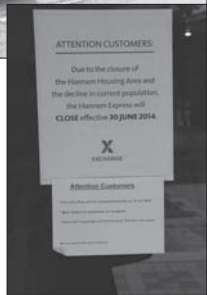
phreys expansion was on track to be completed in 2016-17, with 40 percent of construction at the site already finished.

A shortage of off-post housing for the thousands of troops and civilians projected to move to the area could potentially slow the relocation, though Hammack said Korean developers are expected

to fill the gap now that they see the long-delayed project is finally moving forward.

The relocation has faced multiple setbacks due to funding and construction problems. The move was initially scheduled to take place in 2008 but was postponed until 2012 and then to 2016.

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- Entree*
SMOKED TENDERLOIN OF BEEF
Char-grilled smoked Tenderloin of Beef, served with Lyonnais Demi-glace, accompanied with Mushroom Tempura, a baked Potatoes Souffle, Asparagus and Carrot Purée
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CAESAR SALAD
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THE NEW SANNO

PACIFIC

Busy Yokota airport causing headaches

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — For some, Yokota Air Base would be a great place to live and work if it wasn't for all those airplanes flying around.

The planes — mostly C-130 transports from the 374th Airlift Wing — are a pet peeve for some Yokotans who have taken to the Internet to complain about the inconvenience they cause.

Last month, in a post on Yokota Talk — a community Facebook page — someone wrote: "I know Yokota is an Air Force base and all... but I am not particularly fond of airplanes whizzing past my house so close that I can see the smile on the pilot's face... Did I wake up in downtown Saigon this morning?"

Yokota spokesman 1st Lt. Jacob Bailey said in an email this week that the base gets about 35 noise

complaints a month from people living near the base. For those living on-base, however, the largest complaint seems to be the traffic delays caused by aircraft.

An unusual thing about the air base is the runway splits the base in two, meaning motorists need to drive across the runway to move between homes, offices and other facilities on the installation.

"Yokota's flight line is situated in a densely populated metropolitan area and there is a limited amount of real estate to operate within," Bailey said. "Overrun traffic stops are a necessary measure to ensure the safety of vehicles transiting from one side of the base to the other."

The bad news for those hoping for a summer reprieve: The planes aren't going to slow down anytime soon. In the past, the planes might have flown farther afield, around Mount Fuji or to other bases in Japan, meaning the take-offs and

landings weren't so close together.

But, as a cost-saving measure, there have been more local training sorties, more "touch-and-go" landings, more exercises involving cargo and more personnel parachuting onto the base.

As a result, there have been more delays for motorists, Bailey said.

"A prioritization on local training accomplishment keeps our airmen mission ready, while enabling our wing to continue investing resources into other regional exercises and contingencies throughout the Western Pacific," he said. "Base leadership is informed of social media concerns involving overrun traffic delays and appreciates everyone's patience and understanding on the matter."

Frustrated residents have been offering solutions to the problem, such as building a tunnel under the runway, or perhaps a new road, to solve the problem. According to Bailey, however, such alterations would be expensive and aren't planned.

Instead, air traffic controllers coordinate with aircrews as best they can in an effort to ease traffic in the most expeditious — and safest — manner possible, Bailey said.

"Yokota's air traffic controllers operate with the public's safety in



OSAKABE YASUO/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Ten C-130 Hercules from the 36th Airlift Squadron taxi out for a training mission during a sortie at Yokota Air Base, Japan, in 2013.

mind by managing the best traffic flow possible, both in the air and on the ground," he said.

However, despite the controllers' best efforts, cars back up for hundreds of meters beside the flightline during rush hour and some motorists who, before they reach the overrun, face a maze-like commute due to seemingly endless construction projects, aren't happy.

The irony of people associated with an Air Force base complaining about planes hasn't been lost on dozens of other Yokota Talk

posters who have taken their neighbors to task.

One responded sarcastically: "We are just flying around in circles just to make your day miserable and burn taxpayer dollars. You are right we actually mission plan around how to annoy everyone here. It's weird that at an Air Force base we are practicing to fly airplanes. I certainly have a hard time getting my head around the idea too."

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'I know Yokota is an Air Force base and all ... but I am not particularly fond of airplanes whizzing past my house so close that I can see the smile on the pilot's face.'

posting on Facebook community page Yokota Talk

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MILITARY

Japanese officials seek reassurance of drone's safety

By SETH ROBSON
AND CHUYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

Officials in northern Japan — where the U.S. Air Force has decided to temporarily base its largest unmanned aircraft — want more information about the safety of military drones following a recent report that more than 400 large remotely controlled aircraft have crashed since Sept. 11, 2001.

Information about the crashes was included in 50,000 pages of accident investigation reports and other records provided to The Washington Post, which filed two dozen Freedom of Information Act requests with the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

The public release of the crash data comes less than a month after the Air Force began flying the RQ-4 Global Hawk out of Misawa Air Base — a dual-use facility where the U.S. military shares a runway with commercial passenger jets.

The Global Hawks have been temporarily moved to Misawa from Guam, which is in the path of typhoons during the summer months. Officials have not revealed where they fly during mis-

sions other than “various places around the Pacific.” However, experts say they are likely spying on North Korea and China.

Misawa City officials were assured of the Global Hawk's exemplary safety record by U.S. Forces Japan commander Lt. Gen. Sam Angellella last month. Now they have asked the Japanese government to confirm the validity of the newly released drone accident data, which indicate that at least five Global Hawks have crashed.

The drone safety documents, which include data from the Federal Aviation Administration, NASA, universities, law enforcement agencies and other drone users, detail numerous cases of unmanned aircraft flying dangerously close to passenger planes in the U.S., along with a large number of crashes and near-misses involving military drones.

Perhaps the most worrying incident was a midair crash between a C-130 Hercules — a large military transport plane — and an unmanned 375-pound RQ-7B Shadow in eastern Afghanistan in August 2011.

The crash destroyed the drone and forced the smoking Hercules to land immediately, with jet fuel pouring out of a gash in its wing,



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Drone pilots from Detachment 1, 69th Reconnaissance Group talk to Japanese reporters about the Global Hawk surveillance plane at Misawa Air Base, Japan, earlier this month. Japanese officials are asking about the drone's safety after a recent news report by The Washington Post.

the Post reported.

Misawa City military affairs office chief Shuichi Hiraide said local officials were told by the Japanese Defense Ministry that there is no record of major accidents involving the Block 30 Global Hawk — the type that is deployed to Japan.

“Because deployment of drones is the first in Japan, we asked the military through the ministry for a thorough disclosure of information and to ensure safety maintenance, as well as thorough training of troops engaged in the operation.”

The city has yet to receive a reply to its request for verification of the newly released data, he said.

“What we have now is a translated version of the (Washington Post) report,” Hiraide said. “We are presently seeking more information, especially (about) the Global Hawk Block 30.”

About 40 personnel from Detachment 1, 69th Reconnaissance Group, are at Misawa over the summer operating and servicing the Global Hawks.

One of the Global Hawk pilots, Maj. Timothy, whose full name

was withheld for security reasons, said a number of safeguards are in place to avoid collisions with passenger jets at Misawa.

Global Hawk operators have several ways of controlling the aircraft, and there is a back-up power supply to keep their controls online in an emergency, the major said.

Planners will schedule the drone takeoffs and landings at Misawa during times when civilian air traffic is low, he said.

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Air Force raises enlistee age limit from 27 to 39

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Thanks to a new Air Force policy announced Tuesday, enlisted recruits can now experience the joys of basic training in their late 30s.

The Air Force raised the maximum age for enlisted accession from 27 to 39, meaning it may now be the best choice for those who feel the call to military service later in life.

The maximum age for Army enlisted recruits is 35, while the Navy and Marines cap recruit ages at 34 and 28, respectively.

Under federal law, the oldest recruit any military branch can enlist is 42, although each service sets its own policy within that limit.

Annette Crawford, a spokeswoman for the Air Force Recruiting Service at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas, said officials would be watching to see whether the aches and pains of approaching middle age are too much for older recruits.

“With the change, if we see a higher initial training attrition or

increased physical injuries ... the Air Force recruiting commander can set a more restrictive age if necessary,” she said.

The increased maximum age is for all Air Force enlisted occupations rather than being targeted at increasing accessions in certain areas, she said.

The new policy comes at a time of a declining defense budget, a shrinking military and failing recruiting goals, however: From 2009 to 2013, the number of recruits dropped from nearly 32,000 to just over 26,000. While recruiting goals for 2014 are still being finalized, they're likely to fall again.

Nevertheless, potential recruits were happy when the announcement was posted late Tuesday to Facebook.

“I was feeling completely out of luck because when I first looked into joining the AF, I was already 28 and the age limit was 27,” wrote a poster identified as Hugo Ricardo Roca.

“Now all I need is to get back in shape and just join in.”

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Helo unit takes over Korea deployment

By ARMANDO R. LIMON
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The Army completed its first transfer of authority between deployed units at Camp Humphreys on Wednesday, part of a U.S. military effort to maintain a strong presence on the Korean Peninsula.

The 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment completed a nine-month tour by transferring its authority — and equipment — to the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade's 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment. The 6-17th will crew the 30 OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters already in country.

The purpose of the squadron coming to Korea on a nine-month rotation is to be part of the regionally aligned forces rotation of a trained and ready force to augment the 2nd Infantry Division as well as our Korean partners,” said Lt. Col. Matthew Ketchum, 6-17th commander.

With the end of deployments in Iraq and the

gradual cessation of forces in Afghanistan, deployments have slowly pivoted toward the Korean Peninsula, with the 6-17th being the third unit to deploy here.

The soldiers who served in the unit said deploying to Korea was a unique experience.

Sgt. Miguel Diaz, an OH-58D Kiowa maintainer with the 6-17th, said he missed his family at Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

“This my first time actually away from home overseas from family,” Diaz said. “I see it better than being in Afghanistan.”

Diaz said it was important for his unit to be in Korea since you never know the mindset of North Korea.

“Anything can happen at any minute,” he said. “We'll have one of the first birds in the air if it comes down to it.”

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MILITARY

Vets told VA working hard to cut Hawaii waits

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

PORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The most recent Veterans Affairs audit found that waiting times for new patient appointments in Hawaii were the highest in the nation, with veterans waiting almost five months to see a doctor.

But the director of the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System has found at least one bright spot in the dismal findings of the audit, which was sparked by an inspector general report that staff in the Phoenix VA system had been deliberately falsifying statistics on wait times to qualify for bonuses.

Director Wayne Pfeffer told a group of veterans Tuesday that if staff of the Hawaiian VA system had been manipulating wait-time numbers, the figures wouldn't have looked so bad in the audit.

"So obviously we're either not manipulating well or we're [reporting correctly]," he said.

"I've said from the day I got here that I'd rather have a high number and explain that than explain why we're hiding people."

Explaining is what Pfeffer and other VA-PHIC staff are now doing through a series of public meetings intended to reassure

veterans that they're coping with the problem.

It's a hard sell.

Several vocal veterans in the audience panned the presentation as "damage control."

At least one U.S. representative from the state, Tulsi Gabbard, has called for Pfeffer to be fired.

The VA has been reeling from the disclosures, and some lawmakers are using the scandal to push for more privatization of the system. The VA's Pacific Island system, which along with the Hawaiian Islands includes Guam, American Samoa and Mariana Islands — has about 50,000 veterans enrolled, said Craig Oswald, the system's facility planner. There are an estimated 130,000 veterans living in the coverage area, he said.

"We've grown 5 percent or more veterans a year," said Pfeffer, who became director last fall after moving from Louisville, Ky. "So the staffing and space really didn't keep up with the demand."

"Wanting to keep the high quality of care for the patients we serve, the decision was made not to bring in more patients than we can take care of appropriately, so we ended up with a waiting list." No other VA facility in the na-

tion had wait times higher than 100 days, according to the audit.

Steps have been taken to reduce the time to see patients in Hawaii. As a result, Pfeffer said, the number of those waiting to see a doctor for the first time is down from about 1,800 to roughly 570, and the average wait time has gone from 145 days to 109.

He has increased the number of patients each doctor is responsible for — from 1,200 to 1,300 — which Pfeffer said was the national "norm" for VA physicians.

Five more doctors will be hired to take some of the workload off the five physicians who are cur-

rently at Tripler Medical Center's clinic, he said.

Medical personnel have also agreed to work some evenings and weekends to process new patients.

Oswald listed a number of projects intended to handle the increased need for veteran health care, some of which have been in the pipeline for a decade.

A massive 90,000-square-foot clinic has been approved for the fast-growing Ewa Plain to the west of downtown Honolulu, Oswald said, with other facility expansions planned at Tripler.

"We've been planning for the future for quite a long time," Oswald said. "And the reason I wanted to tell you that it's 10 years in the making is because with some of the comments and some of the more recent publicity we've received, we already had planned some of these things in advance so I didn't want you to feel that these are things we just came up with last week."

That didn't satisfy some of the veterans seated in the audience of about 30 at the Oahu Veterans Center.

Calvin Griffin, a retired Army reservist, said he didn't doubt there are dedicated workers in the VA health care system. But why, he asked, with tens of thousands of veterans in the Pacific area, is everything always in the "planning stage?"

"There were things planned 10 years ago, and they're still not done," he said. "People don't have time. When you see people will literally be dying waiting for the services they earned, that's what frustrates a lot of people and really ticks them off to no end."

Victor Ferrer, who said he'd served in the Marines during the first Gulf War, told the VA officials: "I appreciate all you're talking about, about all your projects. But to me, I look at it as burning up time, a lot of double-spек."

The real case is, what is actually being done to curtail time for patients to be seen?"

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Va. defense contractor sentenced for bribery

NORFOLK, Va. — A Chesapeake defense contractor will spend four years in prison for paying bribes to public officials.

According to court documents, Roderic Smith, 50, and a business partner paid cash bribes to two officials from the Navy's Military Sealift Command, Kenny Toy and Scott Miserendino. In exchange, their company received contracts

on various telecommunications projects.

Smith pleaded guilty in March to a bribery conspiracy charge. The Virginian-Pilot reported that he was sentenced Monday in U.S. District Court in Norfolk.

His business partner, Dwayne Hardman, and Toy are scheduled to be sentenced in July for their roles in the scheme.

Miserendino is scheduled to stand trial Sept. 30.

From The Associated Press



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IRAQ

Half of promised US military have arrived in Iraq

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Ninety U.S. troops arrived in Iraq on Tuesday to help set up Joint Operations Centers and begin assessing conditions on the ground as the U.S. contemplates launching airstrikes against Islamic militants who have overrun much of the country in recent weeks.

The 90 troops are a mix of special operators and conventional forces, including intelligence analysts and logistical experts. Another four assessment teams, comprising 50 troops, will arrive in Baghdad in the next few days, Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters.

The 90 troops who arrived Tuesday will join the 40 personnel who were already on the ground when the assessment effort kicked off. The troops will help determine how best to flow in additional advisory teams, Kirby said. All of the services are represented in the assessment teams, according to Kirby.

Last week, President Barack Obama announced that he had authorized up to 300 American military advisers to deploy to Iraq to help the embattled government there thwart the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, a transnational militant group that has taken over much of northern and western Iraq and moved within 35 miles of Baghdad.

The assessment teams will help the Obama administration and the Pentagon learn more about the state of the Iraqi security forces, the situation on the ground, and the ISIL's activities. They will also make recommendations about how to proceed with the advisory mission. Their initial assessments are expected to be completed in two or three weeks, Kirby said.

Kirby was asked whether waiting two or three weeks for an ini-

tial assessment is too leisurely, given the speed with which the ISIL is moving.

"Everybody shares the sense of urgency here about what is going on inside Iraq," Kirby said. "[But] this isn't about rushing to the rescue, OK? This is — it's a measured, deliberate approach to help us and [the Iraqi security forces] get better eyes on the situation and what they're facing."

In addition to the advisory teams, the U.S. military has been conducting 30 to 35 intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance flights per day using manned aircraft and drones, Kirby said.

In response to the turmoil in Iraq, the U.S. military has moved a significant number of air, ground and naval assets into the region over the past 10 days in case forces are needed to protect American citizens or bomb militant targets.

The Obama administration was slated to provide a classified briefing Tuesday evening to all 100 senators on the violence in Iraq. The administration has said it will consult with lawmakers as the crisis unfolds, but some lawmakers have suggested that Obama does not need congressional approval to take limited military action in Iraq. Obama has ruled out sending combat troops to the country.

Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters in Baghdad that U.S. support for the Iraqi government will be "intense [and] sustained," according to reports.

At the Pentagon, Kirby said that the ramped-up U.S. military presence in the country will not be a prologue one.

"This is a limited, short-term duration mission ... We've been saying that since the beginning and that has not changed," Kirby said. "I don't have a fixed date for you as a deadline or an end date."

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SUSAN WALSH/AP

People gather outside the White House on Saturday to protest against renewed U.S. involvement in Iraq.

Reports: ISIL attacking Balad Air Base, could seize military supplies

Stars and Stripes

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant is threatening to take control of Balad air base, Iraq's largest airfield and one of America's most important military outposts during its occupation of the country.

According to a Reuters news service report, insurgents have surrounded the air base nearby, which was known as "Camp Anacanda" under U.S. occupation, and struck it with mortars. Eyewitnesses told Reuters that the air base had been surrounded on three sides.

According to The Daily Beast, Russian-made transport helicopters, surveillance planes and a fleet of pickup trucks fitted with heavy machine guns would all be lost to the militants if the base is overrun.

Citing internal reports from Balad and outside analysts, the news outlet reported that the base is in immediate danger of being taken.

"We assess the group continues to threaten the air base and

Iraqi Security Force control of the air base as it moves south towards Baghdad," a senior U.S. intelligence official told reporters Tuesday.

Even if ISIL fighters could not operate or maintain aircraft parked there — and it's unlikely they would — denying the Iraqi security forces their use would be a significant gain. NBC News reported Tuesday that Iraqi officers say without air support they are on an equal footing with ISIL fighters.

Defense analyst Jessica Lewis told The Daily Beast that Balad and neighboring Taji base are likely some of the next targets of the militants' campaign. "Both of these bases are critical military sites for the Iraqi army," she is quoted as saying. "Neutralizing one or both would demonstrate that ISIS can beat the Iraqi Army strategically."

Some attacks on Balad already began this month. The last American contractors at Balad — many of whom were working to ready the base for the planned

delivery of F-16s — were flown by the Iraqi Air Force to Baghdad on June 13.

That delivery is now less certain.

"Clearly, we are facing a fluid situation on the ground at the moment and it's simply too soon to say how the current ISIL offensive will affect delivery timelines for Iraq's F-16s," said Pentagon spokesman Cmdr. Bill Speaks.

If the ISIL took Balad, it could add to its already impressive stock of vehicles, weapons and equipment.

James Codling, who served as a contractor and senior engineer on the base between 2008 and 2012, told The Daily Beast that when the U.S. forces left in 2011, they left at least 1,000 trucks and vehicles, some of them armored, along with 500 to 600 portable power generators. He also said the base housed Russian-made Mi-8 transport helicopters, small surveillance planes, military tactical vehicles, Humvees and a fleet of pickup trucks with machine guns mounted in the truck beds.



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IRAQ

Warning: Al-Maliki rejects calls for interim ‘salvation’ government in Iraq

FROM FRONT PAGE

American officials said the strikes appeared to be the work of Syrian President Bashar Assad's government. They said the target was the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, a Sunni extremist group that seeks to carve out a purist Islamic enclave across both sides of the Syria-Iraq border.

"We've made it clear to everyone in the region that we don't need anything to take place that might exacerbate that sectarian divisions that are already at a heightened level of tension," Kerry said, speaking at a meeting of diplomats from NATO nations. "It's already important that nothing take place that contributes to the extremism or could act as a flash point with respects to the sectarian divide."

Kerry said Baghdad needs to take steps to ensure that Iraq's military can defend the country without relying on outside forces. The U.S. is sending 300 military advisers.

Nevertheless, the involvement of Syria and Iran in Iraq suggests a developing Shiite axis among the three governments in response to the raging Sunni insurgency. In an unusual twist, the U.S., Iran and Syria now find themselves with overlapping interests in stabilizing Iraq's government.

U.S. officials believe the leadership in Baghdad should seek to draw Sunni support away from the militants led by the Islamic State. The insurgency has drawn support from disaffected Iraqi Sunnis who are angry over perceived mistreatment and random detentions by the Shiite-led government.

Kerry said Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki appears to be standing by his commitment to start building a new government that fully represents its Shiite, Sunni, and Kurdish population. But he said the U.S. is watching closely to make sure any new political process does not repeat past mistakes of excluding Iraq's minorities.

On Wednesday, al-Maliki rejected calls for an interim "national salvation government" in his first public statement since President Barack Obama challenged him last week to create a more inclusive leadership or risk a sectarian civil war.

Several politicians, including Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite who has been named as a possible contender to replace al-Maliki, have called on him to step down and form an interim government that could provide leadership until a more permanent solution can be found.

Al-Maliki insisted the political process must be allowed to proceed following recent national elections in which his bloc won the largest share of parliament seats.

"The call to form a national salvation government represents a coup against the constitution and the political process," he said. He added that "rebels against the constitution" — a thinly veiled reference to Sunni rivals — posed a more serious danger to Iraq



MUSSEIN MALLA/AP

A Kurdish peshmerga fighter takes his position on the front line with militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Tuz Khormato, 62 miles south of the oil rich province of Kirkuk, northern Iraq, on Wednesday.

than the militants.

He called on "political forces" to close ranks in the face of the growing threat by insurgents, but took no concrete steps to meet U.S. demands for greater inclusion of minority Sunnis.

Al-Maliki's coalition, the State of the Law, won 92 seats of the 328-member parliament in the election. In office since 2006, al-Maliki needs the support of a simple majority to hold on to the job for another four-year term. The legislature is expected to meet before the end of the month, when it will elect a speaker. It has 30 days to elect a new president, who in turn will select the leader of the majority bloc in parliament to form the next government.

Qaim, where the Syrian air-strikes took place, is in the vast and mostly Sunni Anbar province. Its provincial government spokesman, Dhari al-Rishawi, told The Associated Press on

Tuesday that 17 people were killed in an air raid there.

The White House said intervention by Syria was not the way to stem the insurgents, who have taken control of several cities in northern and western Iraq.

"The solution to the current confronting Iraq is not the intervention of the Assad regime, which allowed ISIL to thrive in the first place," said Bernadette Meehan, a National Security Council spokeswoman. "The solution to Iraq's security challenge does not involve militias or the murderous Assad regime, but the strengthening of the Iraqi security forces to combat threats."

Underlying the persistent danger of Iraq being swept up again by sectarian bloodletting, a suicide bomber blew himself up at an outdoor market south of Baghdad on Wednesday, killing 15 people and wounding 30, police and hospital officials said.

They said the attack took place around sunset in the Shiite majority area of Mahmudiya, 20 miles south of the capital. No one claimed responsibility for the attack but it bore the hallmarks of Sunni militants who have for years targeted security forces and Shiite civilians.

Earlier Wednesday, Sunni militants launched a dawn raid on a key Iraqi oil refinery they have been trying to take for days, but security forces fought them back, said Col. Ali al-Quraishi, the commander of the Iraqi forces on the scene.

A mortar shell also smashed into a house in Jalula, northeast of Baghdad, killing a woman and her two children. That town in the turbulent Diyala province is under the control of Kurdish fighters known as peshmerga.

Also, a report by Iran's semi-

official Fars news agency said an attack near Iran's western border with Iraq killed three Iranian border guards. They were killed Tuesday night while patrolling along the border in western Kermanshah province. A border outpost commander was among the three killed. Fars quoted a local security official, Shahriar Heidari, as saying.

Heidari said an unspecified "terrorist group" was behind the attack but provided no details.

A U.S. official said Wednesday that Iran has been flying surveillance drones in Iraq.

American and Iranian officials have had some direct discussions on the matter, though the Obama administration has ruled out the prospect of direct military involvement. The U.S. is also conducting aerial surveillance over Iraq.

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NATION

Confusion in cockpit is blamed for crash

By ALAN LEVIN
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Pilot errors, inadequate training and confusion about the airplane's automated controls all contributed to the fatal Asiana Airlines Inc. crash in San Francisco last year, U.S. investigators concluded.

The pilots weren't trained well enough on the computerized controls and made numerous mistakes while landing, the National Transportation Safety Board determined at a hearing Tuesday. It said the speed-protection system on the Boeing Co. 777-200ER should be studied to ascertain whether it needs redesigning.

The findings bring to a close a U.S. investigation into the July 6 accident, which killed three and triggered questions about South Korea's pilot training and one of Boeing's most popular jetliners. The crash was the first commercial airline accident in the United States with passenger fatalities since 2009.

"We have learned that pilots must understand and command automation, and not become over-reliant on it," acting agency Chairman Christopher Hart said in a press conference after the hearing. "The pilot must always be the boss."

Boeing said it "respectfully disagrees" with the NTSB's findings on its cockpit automation. "We note that the 777 has an extraordinary record of safety," the Chicago-based company said in a statement.

The plane struck a seawall after the pilots allowed the jetliner to get almost 40 miles per hour slower than target speed as they neared the runway. The pilots, without realizing it, disabled the automated controls that in most situations would have kept them at a safe speed, the NTSB said.

The pilots mismanaged their approach to the airport, failed to notice the deteriorating speed and lights near the runway showing they were too low, and then didn't abort the touchdown, which they were trained to do, according to the NTSB. The two pilots also didn't communicate as they each made changes to the cockpit automation, the board found.

Pilot fatigue on the Seoul-to-San Francisco flight also played a role. The crew on the South Korean airline was landing in San Francisco at 3:30 a.m. in a time, which probably hurt their performance, the NTSB said.

An underlying reason for the accident was that Captain Lee Kang-kuk, a veteran of the airline who was being trained on the Boeing 777 wide-body, didn't realize he had disabled the jetliner's automatic speed protection system as he was trying to descend, according to the NTSB.



U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., addresses supporters Tuesday in Mississippi after defeating state Sen. Chris McDaniel in a primary runoff for the GOP nomination for senate.

ROGEO V. SOLIS/AP

Kings posthumously given Congressional Gold Medal

By WESLEY LOWERY
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Fifty years after their instrumental role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King were posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor, on Tuesday.

The presentation of the medal for the Kings — considered the foremost leaders of the 1960s civil rights movement that won black Americans equal voting rights and fought to free them from institutional segregation in the Jim Crow South — comes a year after Congress gave the honor to the "Four Little Girls" killed in the 1963 Birmingham church bombing, a pivotal moment in the movement.

"We gather here in the Capitol to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his beloved wife, Coretta Scott King, one of the most distinguished and admired husband-and-wife teams of the 20th century," said Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., also a leader in the civil rights movement. "Often history remembers speeches of facts and figures, but I cannot forget their love. From their union came an enduring strength that carried many of us through the darkest days of the movement."

Other civil rights era figures who have been honored with the Congressional Gold Medal include Rosa Parks (1999), who became the face of the Montgomery,

"Often history remembers speeches of facts and figures, but I cannot forget their love. From their union came an enduring strength that carried many of us through the darkest days of the movement."

Rep. John Lewis
D-Ga.

Ala., bus boycott when she refused to leave her seat and move to the back of the bus, and Dorothy Height (2004), one of the most prominent women of the movement, who organized "Wednesdays in Mississippi," a dialogue series in which Northern women traveled to Southern cities to work to foster harmony during the contentious civil rights years.

The Kings' medal ceremony comes a year after the Supreme Court struck down a major component of the Voting Rights Act, eliminating the "pre-clearance" provision that many considered the law's most crucial component.

The Congressional Gold Medal is considered the country's "highest expression of national appreciation" for distinguished achievements of all sorts. It is awarded to individuals, institutions and sometimes even events.

Tea party fails in Miss.

By DONNA CASSATA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Washington's political establishment offered a sober assessment of the tea party movement Wednesday after six-term Sen. Thad Cochran's narrow win in Mississippi. The upstarts are down but not out.

"You cannot underestimate the anti-Washington feeling which translates into anti-incumbency, and it's out there and it's viable," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., told reporters at a breakfast organized by The Wall Street Journal.

Still, McCain welcomed Cochran's comeback win as historic after a nasty, costly primary that forced a three-week sprint to Tuesday's runoff. With 99 percent of precincts reporting, Cochran held a 6,373-vote advantage over tea party favorite Chris McDaniel, who has refused to concede the race.

While McCain sees the tea party groups as a strong presence, Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, of New York, argued that the grassroots effort has peaked.

"I think mainstream Republicans are saying 'Enough already; if we keep following the tea party we're going to follow like Thelma and Louise over a cliff,'" Schumer said at the same breakfast, referring to the 1991 movie of two women who tried to outrun the law.

Unsuccessful in earlier Republican primaries in Kentucky, Georgia and North Carolina, outside conservative organizations and tea party groups had invested millions in Missis-

sippi in hopes of knocking out Cochran. They have few chances to reverse the trend in the remaining contests before November's elections.

In another setback for the tea party, two-term Rep. James Lankford, of Oklahoma, won the GOP nomination in the race to succeed Sen. Tom Coburn, who is stepping down with two years left in his term. Part of the House GOP leadership, Lankford defeated T.W. Shannon, a member of the Chickasaw Nation and the state's first black House speaker, who was backed by former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, two stalwarts of the right.

The Republican establishment blames the tea party movement and outside groups for costing it Senate seats — and majority control — in 2010 and 2012. Leaders in Washington were determined to avoid the same fate this election cycle.

In New York's Harlem and upper Manhattan, 84-year-old Democratic Rep. Charles Rangel, a 22-term congressman and the third-most senior member of the House, held a slight lead over state Sen. Adriano Espaillat, bidding to become the first Dominican-American member of Congress. The race was too close to call with an undetermined number of absentee ballots still to be counted.

In Colorado, former Rep. Bob Beauprez won a crowded gubernatorial primary that included 2008 presidential candidate Tom Tancredo, an immigration opponent. Beauprez will face Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper.

Medical workers indicted in \$25M scam

LOS ANGELES — Southern California doctors were bribed to prescribe a pain-relief concoction as part of a \$25 million workers' compensation scam that inadvertently caused a baby's death, according to indictments.

Two recently released Orange County grand jury indictments name 15 people, including physicians, pharmacists, chiropractors and the head of an Ontario-based workers' compensation claims management firm.

The indictments name Kareem Ahmed, a major campaign donor to President Barack Obama and head of the Landmark Medical Management. Prosecutors contend that he hired pharmacists to produce a pain-relief cream, gave kickbacks to doctors and chiropractors to prescribe it to workers' compensation patients, and conspired to submit phony claims.

Lawsuit blames state in deadly wildfire

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Dozens of property owners in central Ar-

izona are suing the state, saying it failed miserably in its management of a wildfire that killed 19 Hotshots.

The lawsuit filed in Maricopa County Superior Court seeks unspecified damages for emotional distress, property loss and loss of income. The more than 160 plaintiffs also are seeking protections for firefighters such as the 19 Granite Mountain Hotshots who were overrun by flames while battling the Yarnell Hill Fire on June 30, 2013.

Panell overturns pastor's defrocking

PHILADELPHIA — A pastor who presided over his son's same-sex wedding ceremony and vowed to perform other gay marriages if asked can return to the pulpit after a United Methodist Church appeals panel on Tuesday overturned a decision to defrock him.

The nine-person panel ordered the church to restore Frank Schaefer's pastoral credentials, saying the jury that convicted him of breaking church law erred when fashioning his punishment.

From wire reports

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WORLD

Deadly explosion rocks mall in Nigerian capital

By BASHIR ADIGUN
The Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria — An explosion rocked a shopping mall in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, on Wednesday and police say at least 21 people have been killed and 17 wounded.

Witnesses say body parts were scattered around the exit to Enab Plaza, in the upscale Wuse 11 suburb. Billows of black smoke could be seen from a mile away.

It is the latest in a series of violent attacks blamed on Islamic extremists. Nigerian security forces appear incapable of curtailing the near-daily attacks concentrated in the

northeast, where Boko Haram extremists have their stronghold.

The militants increased their area of operations this year and spread their attacks to Abuja, in the center of the country. Two separate explosions in Abuja in April killed more than 120 people and wounded about 200 at a busy bus station. Both were claimed by Boko Haram, which has threatened further attacks.

Abuja is in the center of Nigeria and the militants have spread their attacks to the capital. Two separate explosions in Abuja in April killed more than 120 people and wounded about 200 at a busy bus station.

Both were claimed by Boko Haram, which has threatened further attacks.

A bomb at a medical college in northern Kano killed at least eight people on Monday. Last week, at least 14 died in a bomb blast at a World Cup viewing site in Damaturu, a state capital in the northeast. In May, twin car bombs in the central city of Jos left more than 130 people dead, and a car bomb at a bus station killed 24 people in the Christian quarter of Kano, a Muslim city.

Boko Haram attracted international condemnation for the April mass abductions of more than 200 schoolgirls, and is blamed for this week's abductions of another 91 people

— 31 boys and 60 girls and women with toddlers as young as 3.

Nigeria's military and government claim to be winning the war in the 5-year-old insurgency but the tempo and deadliness of attacks has increased this year, killing more than 2,000 people so far compared with an estimated 3,600 killed over the past four years.

Boko Haram wants to install an Islamic state in Nigeria, a West African nation whose 170 million people are almost equally divided between Muslims who are dominant in the north and Christians in the south.



KIM KWANG-HYUN/AP

Citizens march through Kim Il Sung Square chanting slogans and carrying signs denouncing the United States to mark the 64th anniversary of the start of the Korean War in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Wednesday. The signs read: "Thousand-fold revenge" and "Severe Punishment."

2 Koreas mark war's anniversary

The Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea — North and South Korea on Wednesday marked the 64th anniversary of the war between them that ended in a truce and left the nations bitterly divided.

Thousands of North Koreans took part in a huge rally in Kim Il Sung Square in central Pyongyang. Signs praising North Korea's leaders past and present, and highlighting North Korea's confrontation with America, decorated the square.

The chairman of the Pyongyang City People's Committee spoke from a balcony, his speech punctuated by chants and raised fists from the crowd in the square. Speeches from representatives of workers, farmers and young people followed his remarks.

In South Korea, U.S. veterans of the war were among people attending a ceremony in Seoul.

North Korea says America started the Korean War. Historians around the world agree the war began when North Korea invaded the South.



AHN YOUNG-HOON/AP

U.S. military veteran Fred R. Liberian, left, of Brooklyn, N.Y., shakes hands with South Korean war veteran Lee Gang-sung during a ceremony to mark the Korean War anniversary in Seoul, South Korea, on Wednesday.

Filipino 'comfort women' seek justice from Japan

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Filipino women forced into prostitution by the Japanese military during World War II marched Wednesday to the Japanese Embassy to demand justice and to criticize Philippine President Benigno Aquino III's silence on the issue during his visit to Japan.

Six women in their 80s and some two dozen supporters and activists picketed the embassy to call on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to apologize and compensate them for their ordeal.

"Abe should be made to answer for what the Japanese soldiers did to us," said Estelita Dy, 84. "Justice is what we need, justice now."

Dy denied she and others were voluntary prostitutes, as Japanese nationalists have contended. She said her ordeal began when she was arrested by Japanese troops and shoved into a truck against her will.

"We are already old (but) we will not stop until we can obtain real justice, until we can make sure that there will be peace based on justice," said Virginia Villarma, also 84.

The women and their supporters say Japan must go beyond

statements and resolve the issue after a Japanese panel last week affirmed the validity of a study that led to Japan's landmark 1993 apology for forcing Asian women into wartime prostitution.

South Korea and China have criticized Abe for backpedaling from past Japanese apologies and acknowledgements of wartime atrocities, and the two countries saw the recent review as an attempt to undermine the 1993 apology.

Historians say 20,000 to 200,000 women from across Asia, many of them Koreans, were forced to provide sex to Japan's front-line soldiers. In addition to insisting the so-called "comfort women" worked in wartime brothels voluntarily, Japanese nationalists also say Japan has been unfairly criticized for a practice they say is common during war.

Rechida Extremadura, executive director of the group Lila-Pilipina that supports former sex slaves, said the 1993 apology must only be a first step and Japan must do more for the women in their twilight years.

"If they can't have justice now, it will be too late for the Japanese government and for the people of Japan," she said.

Syrian warplanes strike eastern city, killing 12

BEIRUT — Syrian government warplanes on Wednesday struck an eastern city that is a stronghold of an Islamic militant group, killing at least 12 people, opposition activists said.

The airstrikes on the city of Raqqa that has been under control of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant for more than a year appear to be part of an intensified Syrian government campaign against the group that has in recent weeks become a major fighting force in neighboring Iraq.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the jets struck targets around the provincial capital of Raqqa, including a market and the headquarters of the Islamic State.

Activists said only one of the airstrikes hit the Islamic State headquarters in the city, while others targeted other areas, including a market.

The Islamic State, along with other rebel groups fighting to overthrow Syrian President Bashar Assad, captured Raqqa in March 2013.

From The Associated Press

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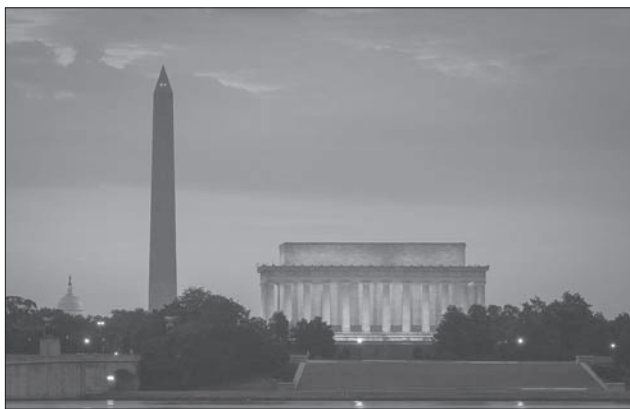
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OPINION



J. DAVID AKE/AP

Historians Fred Anderson and Andrew Cayton say that popular understanding of U.S. history mirrors the arrangement of monuments on the Mall. We conceptualize our past as dominated by three fights for freedom: the Revolutionary War, symbolized by the Washington Monument at one end; the Civil War, enshrined in the Lincoln Memorial at the other end; and World War II, with its memorial in the middle.

Great need to teach the Great War

By CHRISTOPHER L. DOYLE

Commenting recently about seeing the play "War Horse," one of my 11th-grade students expressed surprise that "even some of the Nazis had humane feelings" for the plight of animals caught up in war. "It's about the First World War," I replied. "There weren't any Nazis in that one."

"No Nazis?" He sounded disappointed. "Damn!"

It is not the first time kids in my history classes have misplaced the Nazis. They often identify Hitler, not Kaiser Wilhelm, as the German leader in the Great War. A 12th-grader once even responded to a comment I made about World War II by asking, "Does that mean there was a World War I?" I cringed, but tried to console myself with the thought that it was early in the school year.

Now is a good time to explore why young people conflate the world wars, why World War II eclipses World War I in their view of the past, and the costs of wearing historical blinders. Saturday marks the centenary of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which triggered World War I. Historians are having a field day with new studies of the Great War that identify it as the starting point for almost every significant global event since, from terrorism to genocide. Europeans are commemorating the anniversary with pomp, circumstance and curricular attention in schools.

Americans, however, continue to dwell on other conflicts — mainly the Civil War and World War II. Both are labeled "good wars" because one eradicated slavery and the other fascism, thus justifying the profuse violence and mass death. So the standard lesson goes.

A lot of my students' thinking about these two good wars comes from Hollywood and movies such as "Lincoln," "Glory," "Schindler's List" and "Saving Private Ryan" — films often shown in high school classes. But even the edgier movies my cool students see outside of school play surprisingly well to the official narrative. Quentin Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds" and "Django Unchained" are chock-full of sadistic Nazis and crazed antebellum Southerners who fit perfectly with binary notions of struggle. If Tarantino's good guys are not so nice, well, any

degree of nastiness seems justified toward bad guys that depraved. Both Hollywood and high school portray the past as Manichean conflict.

This storyline borders on myth. In their book "The Dominions War," historians Fred Anderson and Andrew Cayton say that popular understanding of U.S. history mirrors the arrangement of monuments on the National Mall in Washington. We conceptualize our past as dominated by three fights for freedom: the Revolution-

ary War, symbolized by the Washington Monument at one end of the Mall; the Civil War, enshrined in the Lincoln Memorial at the other end; and World War II, with its memorial in the middle. Wars that complicate the theme either get relegated to the periphery, as are Vietnam and Korea, or omitted altogether, as is World War I.

"Good wars" make for monumental stories, but they do not invite complexity of thought. The ends always justify the means. While teachers have a responsibility to make complex subject matter comprehensible, we have an equal obligation not to oversimplify or cater to clichés. To riff on Socrates: An unexamined belief about war is not worth having.

From a Socratic perspective, World War I offers perfect material for asking hard questions. How, for instance, could a relatively inconsequential act of terrorism committed by a teenage extremist from the margins of Europe drag the great powers into conflict? Why did trenches and a pointless war of attrition develop and persist for more than four years on the Western front? How did the bombing of cities, mass conscription, modern propaganda techniques, poison gas and the starvation of civilians by blockade come to be seen as acceptable, even essential, behavior? Were troop mutinies and pacifist activities justified? Were peace advocates heroes? How about official measures to stop them: Were they ethical? Were any higher principles at stake? Did good prevail? And, of course, did the botched peace result in the rise of the Nazis?

In my latest attempt to explore these questions, I have thrown out textbooks and assigned Adam Hochschild's provocative "To End All Wars, A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914-1918." It is all gloriously complicated and, in true Socratic fashion, subversive of societal myths.

I like to imagine that teachers everywhere have the flexibility to seize major anniversaries and current events as teachable moments, but educational norms suggest otherwise. I work at a private school. The typical public education is to stricter standards, more quantity and less tolerance for individual initiative. Writing 20 years ago about June 28 as a lost date in popular memory, the late historian Eric Hobsbawm lamented that "most young men and women at the century's end grow up in a sort of permanent present, lacking any organic relation to the public past of the times they live in." Hobsbawm found this development an "eerie" manifestation of postmodern distractedness.

Public schools today exemplify distractedness. Politicians, pundits and the authors of the Common Core standards insist that schools prepare kids "to compete in the global economy" and attain "21st-century skills." In frenzies of test preparation, current events and a lot of history get lost.

I doubt that understanding the Great War will help young people "compete in the global economy." In fact, insight into that war's causes might lead kids to rethink entirely international competition as an educational goal. Yet I believe that wrestling with that war's complexity will make for better citizens: thoughtful, cautious about letting a president take us to war, concerned with the "collateral damage" inherent to modern conflict, and able to consign Nazis to their proper historical place.

Just the other day, one of my 11th-graders offered perhaps the best justification for studying World War I: "It began this process of dehumanization through technology that got worse in World War II and is still a problem today." That comment suggests cause and effect. It connects past and present. It acknowledges how historians see the past as a series of problems. It identifies modern warfare's unique capacity to brutalize and dehumanize.

I cannot pretend to know what educational leaders have in mind when advocating for 21st-century skills, but my students keep showing me how the intellectual richness of studying the Great War trumps "good war" history.

Christopher L. Doyle teaches history at Watkinson School in Hartford, Conn. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

OPINION

In this setting, vets can write what they feel

By RON CAPPS and MIKE QUIGLEY

When American servicemen and women serve our country, they are fighting to preserve our ideals, our freedoms and our collective heritage. Our American wilderness and protected public lands are an important part of that collective heritage. Indeed, veterans often report that it is the memory of a favorite trout stream, or desert hike, or mountain forest that keeps them centered and going while deployed and that these places help them reintegrate upon returning home.

Veterans often carry other memories — difficult, confusing, traumatic memories. Turning those memories into stories is a way of making sense of them, examining them, controlling them. American wilderness can facilitate the healing and storytelling processes.

Research shows that time spent in the natural environment helps us build resiliency and calmness. Studies also show that the arts can be a valuable therapeutic tool in controlling traumatic memories. We combined the two.

This past spring, the Veterans Writing Project and The Wilderness Society partnered to offer a veterans wilderness writing workshop in the beautiful wildlands of southern Arizona. The Veterans Writing Project provided instruction in the craft of writing — by veterans for veterans. The Wilderness Society provided the camp logistics and context. America's great outdoors provided the rest — literally making the space for creativity, learning and sharing to occur.

The values that wilderness provides us — quiet focus, connection to place, a resource of resiliency — can be particularly helpful to returning veterans and their families. There's a long history (see Earl Shaffer, Ernest Hemingway and Doug Peacock, among others) of veterans returning from combat and seeking solace and recovery in America's outdoors.

Twenty of us made camp in a grove of oak trees at the base of rugged granite cliffs in the Dragoon Mountains — across



KATE MACAK/The Wilderness Society

The setting sun bathes the Dragoon Mountains in Arizona in a warm glow during the Veterans Writing Workshop weekend hosted by the Veterans Writing Project and The Wilderness Society. The workshop, held in the spring, drew military veterans from Arizona, California, Nevada, Wyoming and Iowa.

the San Pedro River from Fort Huachuca and a short drive from Tucson's Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. We were a range of Americans: men and women, younger and older, infantry vets from Vietnam, Air Force and Naval Academy graduates, soldiers and Marines who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Participants came from

Arizona, of course, but also from California, Wyoming, Nevada and as far away as Iowa. On the Coronado National Forest we learned, we healed, we united. During the day we practiced the craft of writing and hiked the nearby hills; in the evenings we bonded with campfire talk. You can read a narrative about the weekend and see pho-

tos on The Wilderness Society's website (www.wilderness.org).

There is a historic tradition of returning veterans telling their stories to the larger society at home. When Odysseus and his warriors returned from the Trojan War, their villages and towns convened to hear a report of what the war experience had been for those sent to fight. In this way, the society that sends its young men and women to battle gets a debriefing that informs its collective thinking and decision-making; the returning warriors get to tell their experiences — marking a reintegration and a sharing of the experience with their fellow citizens.

Throughout the weekend, staff and volunteers from The Wilderness Society heard stories — funny, courageous, powerful, some horrible — stories to which we might not otherwise have had access. America's wilderness and a campfire provide a perfect setting in which to share these stories — and through our natural heritage discover opportunities to learn, grow, and come together as Americans.

The Veterans Writing Project publishes a regular literary journal, O-Dark-Thirty (o-dark-thirty.org/), where the essays, poems, narratives and other artwork created from the workshops are compiled and shared with publicly. The Wilderness Society is planning to expand the partnership with Veterans Writing Project and offer more of these outdoor experiences around the country. If you like what you see and want to be advised of future opportunities, please contact us at vetinfo@twso.org.

In the meantime, remember that favorite trout stream, desert hike or mountain forest and be proud and comforted. Thanks to America's heritage of protected public lands — and your defense of them as an American servicemember — those wild places are still there. And they will be there for you when you need them.

Ron Capps is the founder of the Veterans Writing Project, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Washington. Mike Quigley is the Arizona state director for The Wilderness Society, based in Tucson.

Putin's mandate ploy part of grand plan for Ukraine

By LEONID BERSHIDSKY

Bloomberg News

Russian President Vladimir Putin has officially agreed to leave Ukraine alone. That doesn't mean, though, that he will leave it alone unofficially.

Putin on Tuesday asked the Russian parliament to cancel his mandate to send troops into Ukraine, which he had requested on March 1. That request led to the annexation of Crimea, and chilled relations between Russia and the West. It also had economic consequences, sending the ruble and Russian stocks tumbling and restricting Russia's access to global finance. Moscow's isolation created a \$20 billion void in the global bond market, which was filled by issuers from other nations.

Putin's latest move, tantamount to a promise to refrain from military intervention, sent Russian stocks and bonds bounding up. Is it fair to assume, then, that the threat of wide-ranging sanctions against Russian companies worked? That Putin panicked and gave up his aggressive plans? That is certainly what Western politicians, including President Barack Obama, will now claim (while saying as little as they can about Crimea, which they have failed

to prevent Russia from retaining). It will be true on some level, too; both Putin and Russia's Western business partners have signaled a desire to go back to business as usual, forgetting the annexation.

There is, however, more to Putin's sudden dovishness, which comes days after a new Russian troop buildup at the Ukrainian border. It appears to be a response to the Ukrainian government's sea change in approaching negotiations on the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. Monday, after months of statements from officials in Kiev that the government would not negotiate with "terrorists," talks finally took place in Donetsk.

It was quite a cast of characters. On one side of the table, representing pro-Russia separatists, was Alexander Borodai, a Moscow political consultant now calling himself prime minister of the self-declared Donetsk People's Republic; pro-Russia Ukrainian politician Oleg Tsaryov and several little-known local leaders. On the other side, seemingly representing the government of Ukraine, sat the Russian ambassador to Ukraine, Mikhail Zurabov, and two Kiev politicians: former President Leonid Kuchma and Viktor Medvedchuk, his former chief of staff, who is thought to be close to Putin. Swiss diplomat Heidi

Tagliavini, representing the Organization for European Security and Cooperation, was also there, sanctifying the gathering.

Current Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko appeared almost Putesque in his Byzantine handling of the talks. His envoy, Kuchma, holds no official position, nor does Medvedchuk, who met with Poroshenko before the talks. Officially, Kiev is not talking to the pro-Russia separatists and Moscow is not backing them. The pretense, understood by all, made progress possible. The separatists accepted Poroshenko's offer of a cease-fire until Friday, which they had previously dismissed as a ploy.

After the unofficial consultations — the word "negotiations" was not uttered by Kiev representatives — Putin called Obama. Next, he recalled his request for permission to invade Ukraine.

That doesn't mean Ukraine can breathe a sigh of relief. "Putin has no intention to cease destabilizing the situation in our country," Ukrainian columnist Vitaly Portnikov wrote on Newsru.ua. "Putin just wants Obama to believe in his intentions. He is still convinced that only two tools work in global politics: deceit and bargaining."

Given his rubber-stamp parliament,

Putin can gain permission to send troops back to Ukraine at any time. Besides, if Putin's goal is to keep Poroshenko off balance, an invasion isn't necessary. Russia has already succeeded in drawing out the conflict, arming rebels and making it possible for Russian citizens to fight on the separatists' side. So much for "deceit."

As for "bargaining," it has now started in Donetsk, with Ukrainians from both camps searching for compromise. Medvedchuk's tie to both Putin and Poroshenko — along with the possible backing of one of Ukraine's richest men, Rinat Akhmetov — suggests a resolution with the armed rebels is in sight. The rebels have been useful to Putin, but they are unreliable over the long term. The Kremlin prefers to work with familiar pro-Russia politicians and businessmen in Ukraine's east to make sure Ukraine doesn't end up in the Western bloc.

In effect, Putin is now ready to enter the quiet phase of his Ukraine operation. The West will acquiesce to his game — but only after claiming that sanctions have been a success.

Bloomberg View contributor Leonid Bershidsky is a Moscow-based writer.

MIDEAST

Against all odds

Afghan musket survives as symbol of insurgent history

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

YOU could call him the original "lone survivor." Assistant surgeon William Brydon was battered, bleeding and missing part of his skull when he rode alone to the garrison at Jalalabad after surviving the disastrous retreat of the besieged British army from Kabul in 1842.

Made in the dead of winter, the army's dash for freedom through steep mountain gorges became a nightmarish battle against Mother Nature and the Afghan fighters who used handmade "jezail" muskets to snipe at the column of 16,500 troops and camp followers.

The Afghans joined a list of local peoples around the world who, against all odds, would use irregular tactics to inflict losses on better-equipped forces. If the retreat from Kabul symbolized colonial British folly, the Afghans' jezail firearms came to symbolize the homegrown skill and tenacity that would earn them a place among the great guerrilla fighters in history.

Often made of parts from cannibalized British weapons, jezails were a hodgepodge of Eastern and Western designs, each one unique, and often decorated.

More than a century and a half later, Afghan gunsmiths are still making jezails and other rifles — some of them only suitable for display. Those rifles, along with antique jezails, are sold in the shops in Kabul and the bazaars of NATO bases. The gunmaking technique may be old-fashioned, but the jezail's history offers timely lessons about counterinsurgency for modern soldiers.

A handcrafted legacy

Some 170 years after the British first fought in Kabul, Sher Mohammed hawks antique and replica guns in a dimly lit shop not much larger than a closet.

"These are all guns that were used during the British invasion," said Mohammed, who inherited the business from his father more than 35 years ago. "Some are from that time, and some are new, but all show the culture of that time."

While jezails were the early Afghan gunsmiths' first products, they soon moved on to creating handmade copies of more modern firearms.

"Afghans

began making weapons at home because we had no factories," said Omara Khan Massoudi, director of the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul. "The first factory wasn't built in Kabul until 1863. Before that, even the rulers of the country relied on individual experts to craft the guns."

The handcrafted firearm trade survived the arrival of industrial arms production, however, and continues in many ways today. Called "Khyber Pass Copies" after the region between modern Afghanistan and Pakistan where the cottage industry developed, the guns in Mohammed's shop are mostly jezails. There are also models of later British rifles like the Martini-Henry and Lee-Enfield.

Some of the homemade weapons are better than others, with many more dangerous to their users than their targets.

With the arrival of hundreds of thousands of NATO troops, a new version of handcrafted weapon sprang up as well: the souvenir.

In a small workshop in downtown Kabul, Nisar Ahmad makes only nonfiring souvenirs now. But even those are produced in the same handcrafted way passed down for generations. Now 22, Ahmad said his father started

teaching him the trade when he was 9 or 10 years old.

There may be a few more power tools involved today, but the replicas often include pieces of the original guns.

"Sometimes ... we find an old part of a gun, like a barrel, and we'll use it on a new stock," Ahmad said. That can complicate efforts for inexperienced buyers to determine what's antique and what's new, but things like fresh wood or bright red rust can be giveaways that a gun is a replica.

Ahmad's products are among those bought by merchants who then sell the guns in bazaars on many of the larger NATO military bases. They have become a hot item among American servicemembers looking for a striking memento or gift that conveys the long history of conflict in Afghanistan.

Potential buyers should be aware that even if the replica guns look impressive on the wall, they are unlikely to be of much, if any, monetary value back home.

"Ninety-nine percent of them are basically junk," said Danny Clark, with Collectors Firearms in Houston, Texas. "I don't buy any of them and I don't know anybody who does."

The collectors at Old-Guns.net, a Utah-based website, say they've fielded many questions from buyers in Afghanistan about the value of such guns.

"If you are considering purchase of an 'old gun' in Afghanistan, buy it as something that will be meaningful as a souvenir of your time

there, not with the hope that you will be able to resell it at a profit," OldGuns warns. "Most of the guns being sold seem to be recently manufactured to meet the demand from Americans stationed there."

According to U.S. military officials, in the first five months of 2014 customs inspectors stationed in Afghanistan cleared nearly 700 antique and replica firearms for shipment to the United States.

"Until now I didn't know you could mail things like that home, but it all really intrigues me," U.S. Army Sgt. Iraq Blackledge said while admiring guns and knives at a shop at Bagram Air Field north of Kabul.

The Afghan shop owner, Mohammad, said business at the base bazaars has been tapering off as troop levels drop. "It used to be that I would sell two or three guns a day," he said. "But now it is lucky if I sell two or three a week."

An enduring symbol

Compared to the American Kentucky rifle by some experts, the original jezails were long-barreled muskets featuring distinctly curved stocks, often lavishly decorated with brass or shell.

"The jezail was at least as accurate as the Kentucky rifle, insofar as although it was not rifled, it had a very long barrel, was handmade to suit the owner's specifications, and like so many frontier peoples, Afghans learned to handle weapons from a very young age, rendering such hardy men remarkably adept at striking a target at considerable ranges," said Gregory Fremont-Barnes, a lecturer at the United Kingdom's Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Jezails — typically of .50 to .75 caliber and with either a matchlock or flintlock firing mechanism — were deadly at ranges up to 500 yards, compared with the 200-yard range of the British smoothbore "Brown Bess" flintlock muskets, which were designed to be fired in mass volleys by troops in formation.

Few single aspects of those early British imperial conquests have come to symbolize the unsustainable cost of protracted counterinsurgencies like the Afghan jezail.

SEE MUSKET ON PAGE 15

Sher Mohammed holds a replica jezail musket in his shop in downtown Kabul. Jezails, which were originally handmade by Afghans during their fight against the British in the 19th century, have survived along with other antique guns as a popular souvenirs for American servicemembers.

JOSH SMITH/Stars and Stripes



MIDEAST



PHOTOS BY JOSH SMITH/Stars and Stripes

Army Sgt. Iraq Blackledge looks at knives and guns at an antique shop at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan. He said he has been intrigued by the weapons but did not know until recently it was possible to mail such items back to the United States.

Musket: Jezails immortalized in British fiction

FROM PAGE 14

It not only paved the way for a long history of handmade firearms in Afghanistan, it also left an indelible mark on the British, whose experience would help form the foundation of Western counterinsurgency studies.

Rudyard Kipling, who most famously chronicled the years of British colonialism in works of fiction such as "Kim" and "The Jungle Book," immortalized the jezail as an example of how local insurgencies can effectively drain better-resourced forces.

Referring to the downfall of well-educated British troops in a poem appropriately titled "Arithmetic on the Frontier," Kipling wrote:

*A scrimmage in a Border Station—
A center down some dark defile
Two thousand pounds of education
Drops to a ten-rupee jezail.*

By the second Anglo-Afghan War in 1878, both the British and many Afghans were using (and making) more modern rifles. But use of the jezail persisted, and the war provided the backdrop for perhaps the most famous fictional victim of an Afghan jezail—a victim familiar to millions of Americans.

Sherlock Holmes' inseparable companion Dr. Watson was wounded by the weapon while serving in the Second Anglo-Afghan War. The sidekick in Arthur Conan Doyle's classic detective novels was injured during the Battle of Maiwand, a real battle that occurred in 1880 and proved to be a disastrous rout for the outnumbered British troops.

"The campaign brought honours and promotion to many, but for me it had nothing but misfortune and disaster," Watson says in "A Study in Scarlet."

The modern Sherlock Holmes movies



Jezail muskets hang in a shop on Bagram Air Field. The shop's owner, Mohammed, says sales of antique and replica weapons have dwindled as troops depart.

starring Jude Law as Watson also make prominent mention of his injury and his service in Afghanistan. In the books, Watson clearly makes reference to the "jezail bullet" wound that still aches years later.

Lessons unlearned?

Like the hunting rifle used by American militias during their war for independence, the jezail had a long range that was essential to the tactics employed by the Afghans, who had to make up for the fact they couldn't meet the British head-on on the battlefield.

"The Afghans almost always employed guerrilla tactics: hit-and-run, ambushes, raids, sniping and so on as this suited the ground and the fact that until they created a conventional army ... they could not field formed units of equal standing with the British," Fremont-Barnes said. "It therefore made far more sense to 'play to their strengths' by employing irregular tactics."

In the past decade, Taliban and other in-

surgents have turned to homemade explosives, ambushes and other irregular tactics to inflict serious casualties on NATO and Afghan government forces.

The potential parallels between the colonial British occupations and the modern NATO experience are so numerous they have become almost cliché after 13 years of international intervention in Afghanistan. But as the Taliban insurgency lingers, the lessons from Afghanistan's long history of conflict remain as poignant as ever.

"The British experience in Afghanistan — or least the first two wars — demonstrates that a highly motivated guerrilla fighter, even when only armed with a simple weapon and little in the way of food and other provision, can either prevail over or at the very least exact terrific damage upon a much better-armed and disciplined force," Fremont-Barnes said.

Zubair Babakarkhal contributed to this report.
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Twitter: @joshjmsmith

How to get your souvenir rifle out of Afghanistan

Whether their purchase is real or a replica, American servicemembers can ship jezails or other souvenir weapons out of Afghanistan with the proper paperwork.

■ Before shipping an antique or replica firearm to the United States, U.S. servicemembers must first bring the weapon to the customs office for an inspection. An antique firearm is defined as any firearm not designed or redesigned for using rim fire or conventional center fire ignition with fixed ammunition, manufactured in or before 1898 or for which ammunition is no longer manufactured in the United States, and not readily available. The customs inspector will ensure that the antique gun has a proper date stamp and that it is generally clean.

■ Once the weapon is cleared for shipping by a customs inspector, the servicemember must bring a completed customs form and weapon affidavit to the office of the Staff Judge Advocate for notarization.

■ After paperwork is filed with the customs office, the servicemember is cleared to ship the replica or antique weapon by registered mail through the post office.

■ Servicemembers cannot ship machine guns, defined as repeating-type of firearms; sawed-off style shotguns or shotguns with a barrel length shorter than 16 inches; rifles and shotguns with a barrel shorter than 26 inches in overall length; or martial arts weapons.

■ Any knife with a blade more than 6 inches has to be cleared through customs. If the knife is stored in a decorative box, it can be sent back as is. If the knife is not being shipped back in a decorative box, it must be in a sheath prior to mailing to the U.S.

Source: International Security Assistance Force

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Thief takes churchgoer's Model A, crashes it

OR PRINEVILLE — Central Oregon authorities said a 79-year-old man took a 1930 Ford Model A coupe to church on Sunday to show it off. When he left it so he could get a bite of lunch, it was stolen and crashed into the Crooked River south of Prineville, sheriff's deputies said.

Photos show the mangled vehicle in the river, but no estimate of the damage was immediately available. KTVZ-TV reported the man was fixing the car for a family who owned it.

Police said Erik Blake Halpin, 34, described as a transient, was arrested for investigation of drunken driving and unauthorized use of a vehicle. He swam to shore and was arrested after he was treated at a Bend hospital.

No damages awarded in Disneyland ride lawsuit

CA LOS ANGELES — A jury found that Disneyland was negligent in an accident on its Splash Mountain ride four years ago but says that didn't contribute to a rider's injury.

The federal jury in Los Angeles didn't award any damages to Steve Wilson, of Anaheim, in Friday's decision. His attorney, Barry Novack, said he'll seek a new trial.

Novack said that in 2010 Splash Mountain staff overloaded a log boat, causing it to get stuck, then didn't tie it off before unloading riders.

Wilson, who weighed 415 pounds, claimed that as he got up, the boat moved, he fell back and hit a seat, seriously aggravating an existing back problem. He sought about \$1.3 million in compensation.

Police: Burglar foiled by Facebook goof

MN SOUTH ST. PAUL — South St. Paul police didn't have to work too hard to catch up with a man who they say broke into a house and stole credit cards, cash and a watch.

Police said the burglar used the homeowner's computer and logged onto Facebook last week. But, he failed to log off.

Homeowner James Wood said he has to be the "world's dumbest criminal." WCCO-TV reported Wood posted his phone number on the alleged burglar's Facebook page, hoping that someone would call him. He said he got a text from the man. Wood offered to return the wet clothes the man had left behind because it was raining.

The two agreed to meet. When Wood spotted the burglarly suspect, recognizing him from his Facebook profile, he called police who made an arrest.

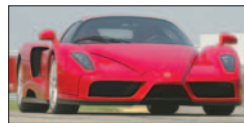
Police seek bank robber clad in pink pajamas

PA PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh police have been searching for a bank robber who wore a pink shirt and pink pa-

THE CENSUS

650

The horsepower of a rare Ferrari Enzo sports car, one of which was heavily damaged in a crash on Interstate 95 in Stamford, Conn., on Monday. State police said the car was being driven by a technician for Miller Motorcars, a luxury car dealership. It began to fishtail on the interstate entrance ramp, struck off a bridge wall, then spun across three lanes of traffic and crashed into the center divider. No serious injuries were reported. Ferrari built fewer than 400 of the cars, which are valued at more than \$600,000.



BEN FOGLETTO, THE PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY (N.J.)/AP

Roar at the shore

Joaneng Tan, of Singapore, details his sculpture of a gladiator fighting a lion during the singles competition of the Do AC Sand Sculpting World Cup competition on the beach in Atlantic City, N.J., on Sunday. Team competitions began Monday and all sculptures were to be in place and under guard through July 6, when winners will be announced.

jama bottoms, and topped off his disguise with a skeleton mask and a black wig.

Police said the robbery happened about 1 p.m. Monday at the Huntington Bank branch in the city's Carrick neighborhood.

The suspect was speaking to someone on a cellphone during the heist, likely a getaway driver. Police said the suspect was also wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and stuffed the loot into a black purse. Police said a dye pack in the money exploded.

Witnesses said the man appeared to be somewhat soiled even before he entered the bank. Police said he was also wearing a black apron and white athletic shoes, both of which were spattered with grease.

City council votes to keep 'yoga tax'

DC WASHINGTON — The D.C. Council has voted to keep a so-called yoga tax as part of the city's 2015 budget. The D.C. Council on Tuesday

decided to keep in place plans to extend the city's 5.75 percent sales tax to gym memberships and yoga classes. An amendment that would have stripped the sales tax expansion from the budget failed on a vote of 9 to 4.

Councilmember David Catania, an independent who's running for mayor, introduced the amendment to take the tax out of the budget. Councilmember Muriel Bowser, the Democratic mayoral nominee, also voted against the tax.

The budget also includes a substantial income tax cut. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson has defended the plan.

Man accused of being naked in town park

RI WOONSOCKET — A 61-year-old Cumberland, R.I., man is accused of sitting naked in a Woonsocket park.

Police charged Denis Besette with disorderly conduct on Saturday.

They were called to the park

after a man was spotted sitting naked in some tall grass near where several children were playing.

Police said Besette quickly put on some clothes when he realized he had been spotted. Officers stopped his car as it was leaving the park.

Besette is scheduled to be arraigned in District Court on July 1.

Woman climbs into lion's den with cookies

TN MEMPHIS — Memphis Zoo officials have banned a woman after saying she climbed over a barrier to the enclosure where lions are kept and tried to feed them cookies.

The woman's actions were reported by other zoo patrons, who saw her jump the barrier and heard her singing to the animals. After the barrier, only wire separates guests from the lions inside the enclosure.

Zoo spokeswoman Abbey Dane said the woman's behavior was

dangerous for her and the lions. She said the woman won't be allowed back into the facility.

2 boaters rescued after 14 hours treasuring water

FL MIAMI — Two people were rescued in the waters near Hallandale Beach hours after they fell off their boat in Key Largo.

The Coast Guard Sector Miami said an off-duty detective and firefighter found Sean McGovern, 50, and Melissa Morris, 52, early Saturday morning. The pair said they fell from their 30-foot Island Hopper boat and were distanced from the vessel around 6 p.m. Friday. They treasured water throughout the night until being found about 14 hours later.

The two were without lifejackets and had nothing to signal help from other boaters, but were not injured. Friends picked them up at the Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale.

The boat is still missing.

From wire reports

FACES

“It’s weird, because they’re more polished producers but it’s a more raw sound, so I think they brought an element of rawness to it.”

singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran, 23, on the many producers he worked with on his new album, which debuted on Monday



MATT SAYLES, INVISION/AP

Ed Sheeran's album, 'X,' multiplies his options

BY SANDY COHEN
The Associated Press

Promoting an album kills creativity, says Ed Sheeran, preferring to watch a World Cup game rather than talk about “X,” the anticipated follow-up to his 2011 debut, “+.”

The 23-year-old singer-songwriter is drained and distracted from talking up the new album, which came out Monday, across the country.

“It has to be done,” he shrugs, one ear on the U.S.-Ghana game.

The English performer prefers the other parts of his job, writing songs and playing live. He created more than 100 songs to get the 12 tracks on “X,” which he pronounces “multiply.” He also worked with a handful of hit-making producers — Pharrell, Benny Blanco, Jeff Bhasker and Rick Rubin — to craft a

broader, more radio-friendly sound.

“It’s weird, because they’re more polished producers but it’s a more raw sound,” Sheeran said, “so I think they brought an element of rawness to it.”

It’s also funkier than his folksy debut, which has sold more than 800,000 units and earned him a pair of Grammy nominations. A clear example is the Pharrell-produced Top 15 single, “Sing,” which has earned comparisons to Justin Timberlake for its dance beat and falsetto vocals. Sheeran appreciates the association.

“He’s a very talented person and I’ve listened to Justified a lot,” Sheeran said in an interview last week. “I definitely took influence from that.”

Suddenly, a cheer erupts from his colleagues who are still watching the game.

“Oh, you won,” Sheeran tells an American reporter. “Congratulations.”

Though Sheeran presents a sweet, almost cherubic image, with his mussed red hair and low-key fashion sense, a hardness shows through, and not in the form of his sleeves or tattoos.

Success is everything he hoped it would be, and he misses nothing from his pre-fame life. “It wasn’t that fun,” he said.

He’s picky about his process and partners. He wouldn’t feature just anyone on his songs, though he has written for One Direction and his BFF, Taylor Swift.

“The people that I’d want to collaborate with aren’t the type to collaborate,” he said. “For instance, if I just decided tomorrow that I wanted to do a song with Jay Z, it’s not going to happen just like that. I think he has to have the idea. ... It’s like that with me.”

Note to potential collaborators: Wait until the World Cup ends.

Oldman apologizes for defending Gibson, Baldwin

Gary Oldman has apologized for defending fellow actors Mel Gibson and Alec Baldwin from critics of their controversial remarks about Jews and gays.

“I am deeply remorseful that comments I recently made in the Playboy interview were offensive to many Jewish people,” Oldman wrote in an open letter to the Anti-Defamation League late Tuesday. “Upon reading my comments in print — I see how insensitive they may be, and how they may indeed contribute to the furtherance of a false stereotype.”

During the expletive-laden Playboy interview, Oldman decried the “political correctness” that ensnared Gibson and Baldwin. Gibson delivered an anti-Semitic rant in 2006 while being arrested for drunken driving, and he later apologized. Baldwin last year was accused of using an anti-gay slur in a New York City street confrontation.

Oldman said that Gibson “got drunk and said a few things, but we’ve all said those things. We’re all (expletive) hypocrites.” He said he didn’t blame Baldwin for using the slur because somebody bothered him.

“Mel Gibson is in a town that’s run by Jews and he said the wrong thing because he’s actually bitten the hand I guess has fed him, and doesn’t need to feed him anymore because he’s got enough dough,” Oldman said in the interview.

In his later letter, first reported by the industry website Deadline.com, Oldman wrote, “I hope you will know that this apology is heartfelt, genuine, and that I have an enormous personal affinity for the Jewish people in general, and those specifically in my life.”

Oldman’s Playboy comments had drawn a sharp response from Jewish leaders.

“Gary Oldman wants Jews to ‘get over’ what Mel Gibson said. But what Gibson said, was the slogan that Adolf Hitler used to murder six million Jews,” said Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles. “(Oldman’s) comment that Hollywood is a town ‘run by Jews’ has a very familiar sinister ring to it that is the anthem of bigots and anti-Semites everywhere. That has nothing to do with political correctness,” Hier said in a statement to The Associated Press.

ABC: Muir replacing Sawyer

ABC says Diane Sawyer is stepping down as its evening news anchor, to be replaced by David Muir.

The network said Sawyer will concentrate on interviews and specials. During her tenure, ABC’s “World News” was a steady second to Brian Williams at NBC, although the ABC broadcast has made gains among younger viewers.

Muir is familiar to “World News” viewers as a substitute for Sawyer and has traveled around the country for his “Made in America” series.

ABC said George Stephanopoulos will take on a new role as chief anchor for live news events.

Other news

■ A draft of Bob Dylan’s “Like a Rolling Stone,” sold Tuesday for \$2 million, which the auction house called a world record for a popular music manuscript. A working draft of the finished song in Dylan’s own hand went to an unidentified bidder at Sotheby’s. The selling price, \$2.045 million, included a buyer’s premium.

■ Former “Good Morning America” host Joan Lunden, 63, says she has breast cancer. She disclosed her diagnosis Tuesday on “GMA,” which she co-anchored 1980 through 1997. Lunden said she expects to make a full recovery.

From The Associated Press

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Recession, recovery widen wealth gap

By Christopher S. Rugaber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Great Recession and the slow recovery have sharply widened the gap between the wealthiest Americans and everyone else, according to a study that underscores the unevenness of wealth gains since the recession ended.

The richest 5 percent had 24 times the wealth of the median household in 2013 — up substantially from 16.5 times as much in 2007, according to a study by University of Michigan researchers.

Substantial gains in the stock market have enabled richer Americans to regain much of their wealth. Stock prices had plunged by nearly half during the recession but have recovered all their losses and set new highs. Roughly 10 percent of households own 80 percent of stocks.

By contrast, middle-class Americans remain further behind because whatever wealth

The richest 5 percent had 24 times the wealth of the median household in 2013 — up substantially from 16.5 times as much in 2007, according to a study by University of Michigan researchers.

they have is derived mainly from home equity. Home prices have only partially recovered from the housing bust. In the first quarter of this year, 18.8 percent of homeowners with a mortgage still owed more on their homes than they were worth, according to real estate data provider Zillow. An additional 18.1 percent have so little equity that it wouldn't be enough to cover closing costs and make a down payment, Zillow calculates.

Fewer Americans even own homes. The home ownership rate fell to 64.8 percent in the first quarter of this year from a peak of 69.2 percent in 2004.

The University of Michigan study found that households at

all levels lost wealth during the recession and that not even the top 5 percent have fully regained it.

The study suggests one reason consumer spending growth has been weaker since the recession than before. When people feel wealthier, they're more likely to spend. Most Americans may still feel poorer than before the recession and so may still be restraining their spending.

The losses weren't evenly distributed. For the top 5 percent, net worth fell 16 percent from 2007, just before the recession began, through last year. The net worth of the median household fell much further — 43 percent.

The study paints a bleak

picture of U.S. household wealth than do official figures from the Federal Reserve.

The Fed's quarterly report on household wealth has concluded that the nation as a whole regained all the wealth it lost from the recession by the first quarter of 2013.

The Fed report doesn't break out that data for households at different wealth levels. Its overall figures are lifted by big gains among the wealthiest Americans.

MARKET WATCH

June 24, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials -119.13
16,818.13

Nasdaq composite -18.32
4,350.36

Standard & Poor's 500 -12.63
1,949.98

Russell 2000 -11.71
1,173.24

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 26)	\$1.3972
Dollar buys (June 26)	€0.7157
British pound (June 26)	\$1.74
Japanese yen (June 26)	99.00
South Korean won (June 26)	993.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
Bahian (Dinar)	\$1.6891
Canada (Dollar)	1.0737
China (Yuan)	6.2302
Denmark (Krone)	6.4769
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.3610/0.7347
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.5516
Hungary (Forint)	224.69
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4363
Japan (Yen)	101.97
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2820
Norway (Krone)	6.1116
Philippines (Peso)	43.86
Poland (Zloty)	3.05
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7598
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2489
South Korea (Won)	1,017.87
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8937
Thailand (Baht)	32.42
Turkey (Lira)	2.1317

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., exchange rates for currencies other than the dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	7.75
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	0.06
30-year bond	3.87

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Thursday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Texas	90	73	Cldy	Chattanooga	91	68	Cldy	Fort Wayne	80	63	PCldy	Louisville	89	71	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	78	59	PCldy	Cheyenne	86	54	Cldy	Fresno	90	62	PCldy	Lubbock	92	68	PCldy
Albuquerque, N.M.	82	65	PCldy	Chicago	76	61	PCldy	Goodland	88	63	Cldy	Macon	91	70	Cldy
Albuquerque	96	67	Cir	Cincinnati	85	66	PCldy	Grand Junction	83	65	Cir	Madison	90	77	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	80	63	Cldy	Cleveland	77	60	PCldy	Grand Rapids	79	59	PCldy	Medford	74	56	Cldy
Amarillo	92	65	PCldy	Colorado Springs	89	57	PCldy	Great Falls	70	48	Rain	Memphis	88	71	Cldy
Anchorage	59	49	Rain	Columbia, S.C.	94	71	PCldy	Green Bay	75	56	PCldy	Miami Beach	90	75	PCldy
Asheville	82	62	PCldy	Columbus, Ga.	88	71	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	88	68	PCldy	Midland-Odesa	93	70	PCldy
Atlanta	88	70	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	82	64	PCldy	Harrisburg	84	63	Cldy	Milwaukee	64	56	Cldy
Atlantic City	86	67	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	80	59	Rain	Hartford Springfield	85	64	Rain	Mpls-St. Paul	79	65	Cldy
Austin	90	71	PCldy	Corpus Christi	90	79	Rain	Helena	74	51	Rain	Missoula	69	50	Rain
Baltimore	88	68	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	90	74	Cldy	Honolulu	88	72	Cir	Mobile	88	70	Cldy
Baton Rouge	86	72	Rain	Dayton	83	64	PCldy	Houston	88	76	Rain	Montgomery	89	71	Cldy
Bilings	86	59	Cldy	Daytona Beach	92	73	Cldy	Huntsville	91	70	Cldy	Nashville	91	69	Cldy
Birmingham	86	70	Cldy	Denver	91	59	PCldy	Indianapolis	83	68	PCldy	New Orleans	88	76	Rain
Bismarck	81	65	Rain	Des Moines	84	69	PCldy	Jacksonville	85	71	Rain	New York City	81	69	Cldy
Boise	77	52	Rain	Detroit	79	61	PCldy	Juneau	66	43	Cldy	Newark	74	63	PCldy
Boston	81	63	Cldy	Duluth	61	52	Cldy	Kansas City	85	69	PCldy	Norfolk, Va.	88	72	PCldy
Boulder	75	58	Cldy	El Paso	101	77	Cir	Knoxville	89	66	PCldy	North Platte	86	65	PCldy
Brownsville	90	73	Cldy	Elkins	79	62	Cldy	La Crosse	89	66	Cldy	Okahoma City	84	69	Cldy
Buffalo	80	60	Cldy	Erie	75	59	Cldy	La Harpe	87	75	Rain	Omaha	84	69	Cldy
Burlington	75	58	Cldy	Eugene	72	54	Cldy	Lansing	80	60	PCldy	Orlando	94	73	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	67	53	Rain	Evansville	86	68	Cldy	Las Vegas	100	79	Rain	Paducah	87	70	Cldy
Casper	89	65	PCldy	Fairbanks	65	50	Rain	Las Vegas	100	79	Rain	Pendleton	74	53	Rain
Charleston, S.C.	94	74	PCldy	Fargo	78	66	Cldy	Lincoln	84	70	Cldy	Philadelphia	85	70	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	85	62	Cldy	Flagstaff	80	51	Cldy	Little Rock	88	72	Cldy	Phoenix	107	83	Cldy
Charlotte	90	70	PCldy	Flint	78	56	PCldy	Los Angeles	79	63	PCldy	Pittsburgh	81	60	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	90	70	PCldy	Fort Smith	87	72	Cldy								

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes

Hi: Tue, 117, Death Valley, Calif.	
Lo: Tue, 31, Bryce Canyon, Utah	

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Frazz



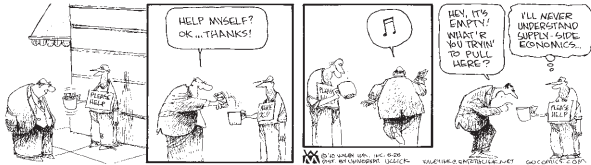
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Pearls Before Swine



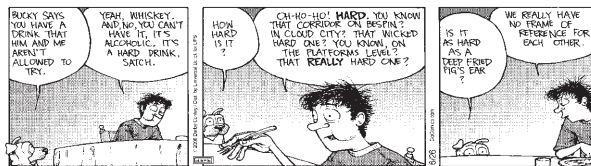
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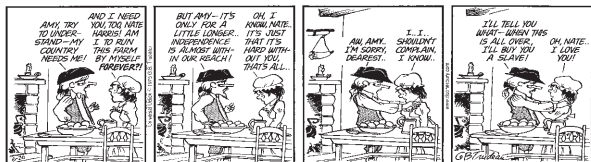
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
15					16				17				
18				19			20	21					
			22				23				24	25	
26	27	28					29				30		
31					32				33				
34				35					36				
37			38					39					
		40						41			42	43	44
45	46					47	48				49		
50						51					52		
53						54					55		

ACROSS

- 1 Untalkative one
- 5 Police officer
- 8 Twenty's house
- 12 Tibetan monk
- 13 "Wha'd'a ya say?"
- 14 Cameo stone
- 15 Greatly
- 16 "— not choose to run"
- 17 Arrived
- 18 Package
- 20 Greenpeace subj.
- 22 "First Lady of the American Theater"
- 26 Roadside stopover
- 29 Carnival city
- 30 Speed along
- 31 Sleeping
- 32 Levy
- 33 Miles of movies
- 34 Up to
- 35 Astronaut Grissom
- 36 Saunter
- 37 "I Am Woman" singer
- 40 Lacking slack
- 41 Gum arabic
- 45 "Oh, woe"
- 47 Long, crosser
- 49 Amateur-night item, often
- 50 Double agent
- 51 Leading lady?
- 52 Author Wiesel
- 53 Skating leap

DOWN

- 54 Blue
- 55 "Phooey!"
- 25 Fix, in a sense
- 26 Trig, e.g.
- 27 Theater trophy
- 28 Poe's "The — Heart"
- 32 Teenage Mutant Ninjas
- 33 Interstellar space vessel
- 35 Wildebeest
- 36 XL squared
- 38 Painting prop
- 39 Old hat
- 42 Pop flavor
- 43 First fltr.
- 44 A really long time
- 45 "I — Camera"
- 46 Bagel topping
- 48 Actress
- 49 Gardner

Answer to Previous Puzzle

	A	B	S		M	A	P	
O	V	A	L		D	O	N	O
A	R	O	S	E	A	C	T	O
R	A	I	S	E	S	T	H	E
E	N	D		P	L	E	A	D
			H	E	A	D		
S	C	A	R	Y		S	T	A
M	A	L	T		A	E	R	O
E	V	A		C	A	S	T	E
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	R	E	D			P	E	R

6-26

CRYPTOQUIP

WLTBS HUDWS ISKKDAW
ETKVAIEKKX ILFSN VLF FLIKSW.
HUSX'KK CFDQVQXK QS HFLSN
LT V CSKKSH BDEFH.

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Deals

Thursday's transactions

BASEBALL
MINNESOTA — Signed SS Michael Cuddyer to a minor league contract.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Reinstated Of Josh Reddick from the 15-day DL. Placed 1B Kyle Blanks on the 15-day DL, retroactive to June 23.
TEXAS RANGERS — Purchased the contract of 1B Carlos Pena from Round Rock (PCL). Designated 1B-OF Brad Snyder for assignment.

National League
NEW YORK METS — Recalled C Travis d'Arnaud from Las Vegas (PCL). Placed C Taylor Teagarden on the 15-day DL, retroactive to June 22.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Signed OF Grady Sizemore to a minor league contract and assigned him to Valley Lehigh (PCL). Designated 1B-OF Brad Snyder for assignment.

BASEBALL
National Basketball Association
BROOKLYN NETS — Announced F Andre Kirilenko exercised his option to return for the 2014-15 season.
CHICAGO — Named Brad Jones, Antonio Lang, Alex Jensen, Mike Wells and Johnnie Brown assistant coaches.

Women's National Basketball Association
MINNESOTA LYNX — Signed forward McKenita, waived G Lindsey Moore.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ATLANTA FALCONS — Waived QB Darrel Green.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed WR Andre Roberts to a one-year contract.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Released DT Andre Puli.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Agreed to terms with D Ron Hainsey on a three-year contract. Agreed to terms with F Nathan Gersten on a two-year contract and LW Chris Evers on a one-year contract.

WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Named Mitch Cormier coach.

Major League Soccer
CHIVAS USA — Signed D Akira Kaji to a one-year contract. Signed G Richard Sanchez to Tigres UANL (Liga MX).

COLLEGE
FAIRLEIGH Dickinson — Named Grant Bilmeier men's assistant basketball coach.

LIV BROOKLYN — Named Alex Trezza basketball coach. Paul Nixon went to assistant basketball coach.

MONTANA — Named Ken Bone men's assistant basketball coach. Agreed to terms with baseball coach Tim Morris on a three-year contract extension through the 2018 season.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN — Named Bruce Parkman men's basketball coach.

TENNESSEE — Named Beth Alford-sullivan director of track and field and cross country.

College baseball

World Series

AT TD Ameritrade Park Omaha, Neb.
Double Elimination
Thursday, June 14
UC Irvine 3, Texas 1
Vanderbilt 6, Louisville 3

Sunday, June 15
TCU 3, Texas Tech 1
Mississippi 1, Mississippi 1

Monday, June 16
Texas 4, Louisville 1, Louisville eliminated
Vanderbilt 6, UC Irvine 4

Tuesday, June 17
Mississippi 2, Texas 1, Texas Tech eliminated
TCU 3, TCU 2, 15 innings

Wednesday, June 18
Texas 1, UC Irvine 0, UC Irvine eliminated
Texas 1, UC Irvine 0, UC Irvine eliminated

Thursday, June 19
Mississippi 3, Virginia 0, eliminated
Friday, June 20
Texas 4, Vanderbilt 1

Saturday, June 21
Virginia 0, Mississippi 0, 2nd round, lightning
Texas 4, Mississippi 1, Mississippi eliminated
Vanderbilt 4, Texas 3, 10 innings, Texas eliminated

Championship Series
(Best-of-three, 4-0 necessary)
Vanderbilt 3, Virginia 0, Vanderbilt leads series 1-0
Vanderbilt 3, Virginia 0, Vanderbilt leads series 2-0

Wednesday, June 25
Vanderbilt 3, Virginia 0, 15-15 vs. Vanderbilt (50-21)

Thursday, June 26
Vanderbilt 3, Virginia 0, 15-15 vs. Vanderbilt (50-21)

Friday, June 27
Vanderbilt 3, Virginia 0, 15-15 vs. Vanderbilt (50-21)

Saturday, June 28
Vanderbilt 3, Virginia 0, 15-15 vs. Vanderbilt (50-21)

Sunday, June 29
Vanderbilt 3, Virginia 0, 15-15 vs. Vanderbilt (50-21)

Monday, June 30
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Tuesday, November 4
Vanderbilt 3, Virginia 0, 15-15

WIMBLEDON/SPORTS BRIEFS



ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

Venus Williams gestures to Kurumi Nara during their singles match Wednesday at Wimbledon. Williams rallied to win 7-6 (4), 6-1.

Murray, Venus reach third round

Defending men's champ wastes no time; Na also advances, but Ferrer streak stopped

By STEPHEN WILSON

The Associated Press

LONDON — Andy Murray was a man in a hurry. Venus Williams took awhile to get going.

The defending men's champion and five-time women's winner took different routes Wednesday to reach the third round at Wimbledon.

Murray dropped just two games and needed only 81 minutes to beat a hinds to become the first British player to retain the Wimbledon title in 77 years.

"If you can finish matches as quickly as possible it definitely helps in the long run," Murray said.

Williams overcame a slow start to beat Japan's Kurumi Nara 7-6 (4), 6-1 to get past the second round of a major for only the second time in her last 10 Grand Slam tournaments.

"It's definitely a step in the right direction," Williams said.

"The thing that I just have to really work on is being out there consistently and playing tournaments."

Next up for Williams is a third-round clash with 2011 champion Petra Kvitová, the Czech left-hander who downed Mona Barthel of Germany 6-2, 6-0.

"I think we both play similar games, really go for it," Williams said. "She's one of the kind of players who can get kind of hot against me."

For Murray, it was one of the most emphatic wins of his career. He had never previously dropped fewer than six games in a match at Wimbledon, and it was his most one-sided victory at a Grand Slam since losing just one game to Alberto Martin at the Australian Open in 2007.

Murray broke eight times, saved the three break points against him and had only 13 unforced errors.

"I played well today," Murray said. "This is the first year he's played on grass. He just came out of college and he's broken into the top 100. It was tough for him today, he doesn't have much grass court experience but I think he'll keep improving."

The 30th-seeded Williams won six straight points in the tiebreaker after being down 1-4 and ran off six straight games in the second set to beat 41st-ranked Na on Court 3 at the All England Club.

"In the tiebreaker that's when it comes down to who's going to be more consistent and more aggressive," Williams said. "In the beginning she was, but thankfully I was able to turn it around."

Williams, winner of seven Grand Slam titles, lost in the first round in her last appearance at Wimbledon in 2012. The only other time she has made it past the second round in her last 10 Grand Slams was at the 2013 Australian Open. She hasn't reached the fourth round at a major since Wimbledon in 2011.

Also advancing to the third round was second-seeded Australian Open champion Li Na, who beat Yvonne Meusburger of Austria 6-2, 6-0 on Court 2.

Fourth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland opened play on Centre Court and needed less than an hour to beat Australia's Casey Dellacqua 6-4, 6-0.

David Ferrer's streak of reaching at least the third round at 17 consecutive Grand Slam tournaments ended Wednesday with a 6-7 (5), 6-0, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 loss to 118th-ranked qualifier Andrew Kuznetsov of Russia.

The seventh-seeded Ferrer's loss was his first in the second round at a major since the 2010 Australian Open.

He made the quarterfinals at the last 10 Slams, including being the 2013 French Open runner-up.

Scoreboard

Wednesday
At The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club
London
Purse: \$42.5 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Grass-Outdoor

Singles Men

Second Round
Sergiy Stakhovsky, Ukraine, def. Ernests Gulbis (12), Latvia, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (5).
Kevin Anderson (20), South Africa, def. Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, 7-6 (0), 6-3, 6-4, 7-5.

Andy Murray (3), Britain, def. Blaz Rola, Slovenia, 6-1, 6-1, 6-0.
Grigor Dimitrov (11), Bulgaria, def. Luke Saville, Australia, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.
Alexander Dolgoplosov (21), Ukraine, def. Benjamin Becker, Germany, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (0), 6-4, 7-5.

Jeremy Chardy, France, def. Marinko Matosevic, Australia, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (7), 7-6 (4), 6-2.
Fabio Fognini (16), Italy, def. Tim Pucet, Germany, 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 (0), 6-3.

Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, def. Marcos Baghdatis, Cyprus, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.
Andrey Kuznetsov, Russia, def. David Ferrer (7), Spain, 6-7 (5), 6-0, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Tomas Berdych (6), Czech Republic, def. Bernard Tomic, Australia, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (3), 6-1.

Andrey Kuznetsov, Russia, def. David Ferrer (7), Spain, 6-7 (5), 6-0, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Women

First Round
Zarina Diyas, Kazakhstan, def. Kristina Mladenovic, France, 7-6 (4), 6-4.
Vera Zvonareva, Russia, def. Tara Moore, Britain, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

Second Round
Li Na (2), China, def. Yvonne Meusburger, Austria, 6-2, 6-0.
Venus Williams (30), United States, def. Kurumi Nara, Japan, 7-6 (4), 6-1.

Barbora Zlamova, Czech Republic, def. Elena Vesnina (32), Russia, 6-4, 6-2.
Agnieszka Radwanska (4), Poland, def. Casey Dellacqua, Australia, 6-4, 6-2.

Katerina Makarova (22), Russia, def. Mona Barthel, Germany, 6-2, 6-0.
Petra Kvitová (6), Czech Republic, def. Petra Kvitová (6), Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-0.
Caroline Garcia, France, def. Varvara Lepchenko, United States, 7-5, 6-3.

Doubles Men

First Round
Jamie Murray, Britain, and John Peers (14), Australia, def. Daniel Evans and James Ward, Britain, 6-3, 6-4.

Dustin Brown and Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, def. Kevin Krawietz and Michael Elmer, Germany, 6-3, 6-2.

Marcel Granollers and Marc Lopez (6), Spain, def. Marin Draganja, Croatia, and Florin Mergea, Romania, 6-7 (4), 6-1, 6-2, 6-1.

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Briefly

Virginia forces tight and decisive game of CWS

The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The offense has been there for Virginia in the College World Series finals. The pitching is back now, too.

With the Cavaliers' season on the line, Brandon Waddell pitched a five-hit complete game in a 7-2 victory over Vanderbilt on Tuesday night that forced a decisive Game 3 on Wednesday night. The winner will earn its school's first national championship in baseball.

Waddell's first nine-inning complete game came a night after Nathan Kirby imploded in Vanderbilt's nine-run third inning in a 9-8 loss to the Commodores on Monday. Waddell seemed to get better as the game went on, with the fourth inning a turning point.

Vanderbilt (50-21) held a 2-1 lead and had a chance to add to it with John Norwood on second base. But Rhet Wiseman couldn't get a bunt down to move him over, and he struck out looking. Waddell then picked off Norwood at second.

Virginia coach Brian O'Connor said his Cavaliers (53-15) responded like he thought they would after Monday's loss.

"I know the bounce-back this game has shown all year long," O'Connor said. "You know when you go through a season with a team, you start to learn and understand what they're made of and what the fiber of a team is. I told the team after the game last night that there is no panic in this ballpark. Come out tonight and play a great ball game, and we'd have a chance to win."

Waddell (10-3), walked three and struck out five.

"He basically suffocated our offense for most of the night," Vandy coach Tim Corbin said.

The sophomore left-hander didn't allow a hit after Norwood's double until the ninth inning. He retired 12 in a row before he issued a walk with two outs in the ninth.

Kenny Towns and John La Priese drove in two runs apiece for the Cavaliers.

Ex-Patriot's murder trial set May 2015

BOSTON — A judge has tentatively scheduled former New England Patriots star Aaron Hernandez to stand trial next year in May on murder charges in the 2012 drive-by slayings of two men.

Hernandez has pleaded not guilty to killing Daniel e Abreu and Saffro Furtado after a night club encounter.

During a hearing Tuesday in Suffolk Superior Court, Hernandez's lawyers asked Judge Jeffrey Locke to issue a gag order prohib-

iting anyone involved in the case from commenting outside court.

They said they were concerned Hernandez wouldn't get a fair trial because of extensive media coverage on the double slayings and another murder case against Hernandez in the 2013 death of semi-professional football player Odion Lloyd.

Prosecutors objected, saying they hadn't made any improper comments about the case. The judge didn't immediately rule.

Penguins hire Johnston as new coach

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Penguins have hired Mike Johnston as the team's new head coach, replacing Dan Bylsma, who was fired on June 6.

The 57-year-old Johnston, inducted at a Wednesday news conference, spent the past six years with the Portland Winterhawks of the Western Hockey League. He previously served as an NHL associate head coach with the Los Angeles Kings and Vancouver Canucks.

The Penguins also hired 18-year NHL veteran Rich Tocchet as Johnston's top assistant and released Tony Granato and Todd Reirden.

In other NHL news:
■ The Tampa Bay Lightning have taken a top free agent off the market by signing forward Ryan Callahan to a six-year contract.

NFL to remove cap on concussion damages

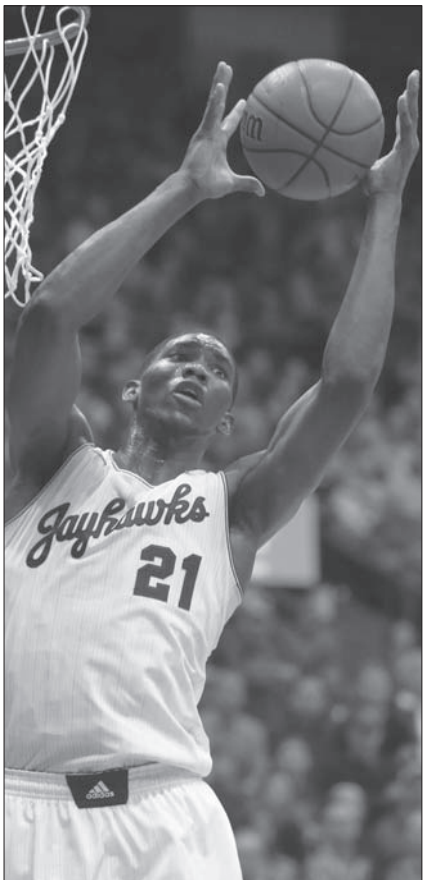
PHILADELPHIA — The NFL agreed Wednesday to remove a \$675 million cap on damages from thousands of concussion-related claims after a federal judge questioned whether there would be enough money to cover as many as 20,000 retired players.

A revised settlement agreement in federal court in Philadelphia also eliminates a provision that barred anyone who gets concussion damages from the NFL from suing the NCAA or other amateur football leagues.

U.S. District Judge Anita Brody had denied preliminary approval of the deal in January because she worried the money could run out sooner than expected. The settlement, negotiated over several months, is designed to last at least 65 years and cover retired players who develop Lou Gehrig's disease, dementia or other neurological problems believed to be caused by concussions suffered during their pro careers.

More than 4,500 former players have filed suit, some accusing the league of fraud for its handling of concussions.

NBA DRAFT



ORLIN WAGNER/AP

Kansas center Joel Embiid was projected to be the top pick in the NBA draft until he suffered a stress fracture in his right foot.

Big men, big risks

Embiid latest to see stock plummet over health woes

By TIM REYNOLDS

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Greg Oden has had years to think about the plight of his knees, and still has no good answers.

The No. 1 pick in the 2007 NBA draft is a poster child for big man bad luck, an epidemic that's been sweeping the league for years. The latest victim seems to be Joel Embiid, a 7-footer expected to be the No. 1 pick in Thursday's draft before a recently suffered stress fracture in his right foot almost certainly robbed the former Kansas star of that chance.

"My body did what it wanted," Oden said. "It didn't do what I wanted."

Oden a few weeks ago recalled the frustration of his situation. But he and Embiid are hardly alone. For every huge success story like the ones from Shaquille O'Neal, David Robinson, Tim Duncan and Hakeem Olajuwon, there's been the cautionary tales of Sam Bowie, Pervis Ellison, Michael Olowokandi, Kwame Brown and Oden.

Big men, big risks and often, big problems.

NBA teams remain undeterred. That's good news for Embiid — after all, despite Oden's litany of problems, he's currently on an NBA roster.

Still, Embiid might lose some big money Thursday.

If he was the No. 1 pick, he would have been guaranteed about \$14.4 million for his first three years in the NBA. If he slides to just No. 10, his rookie-deal salary for those first three years would be about \$8.1 million less.

"Joel will be unable to participate in any additional workouts, and will not attend the draft in New York," agent Arn Tellem said.

Embiid already had some

'My body did what it wanted. It didn't do what I wanted.'

Greg Oden

No. 1 pick in 2007 NBA draft

health questions, mostly regarding a balky back that affected him toward the end of his final college season with Kansas. Now he's had foot surgery and could be out for up to six months, likely ending his rookie season before it starts.

That doesn't make Embiid unique.

His situation could turn out to be similar to what former Kentucky star Nerlens Noel faced this past season. Noel was recovering from a torn knee ligament, an injury that ended his college career and quite probably cost him a chance to be the No. 1 pick. Despite the injury, he was still drafted No. 6 by New Orleans and traded to the Philadelphia 76ers.

And with the Philadelphia currently holding seven picks in this draft, it's easy to wonder if the 76ers would consider grabbing Embiid and giving him a year to recover in the same manner that they did with Noel.

"I feel for him," Noel told reporters in Kentucky after Embiid's injury was announced. "He's had all that pressure and all that expectation. He's just got to stay positive and keep working on himself ... do what he can do, because everything else is out of his control."

There's no shortage of big men who have buckled under the weight of big expectations.

Ellison was the No. 1 pick in 1989, got injured as a rookie and basically had only one great season as a pro. Kent Benson, the No. 1 pick in 1977, averaged 9.1 points per game in his career. Hasheem

Thabeet was the No. 2 pick in 2009; he's averaged 2.2 points per game since. Olowokandi was an enormous bust at No. 1, slogging through an injury-plagued career and never averaging more than 12.3 points in a season.

And Michael Jordan will forever be tied to perhaps the two biggest big-man draft blunders: He was picked one spot after Sam Bowie went at No. 2 to Portland in 1984, and Jordan wound up taking Brown first overall in 2001. For as much as Bowie's career was derailed by injuries — and for as much as he was a punch line for years — he still scored 1,529 more NBA points than Brown did, despite playing 96 fewer games.

"When was the last time there was a great big?" Miami Heat President Pat Riley said last week. "Anthony Davis is a power forward. He's quite a talent. So there's a few guys that have made it but find the 7-foot centers, the prototype center. I haven't seen one of those guys out there for a long time."

Riley had Oden on the Heat this past season. Oden's career has been plagued by injuries. And the guy taken immediately after him in the 2007 draft, Kevin Durant, is now the NBA's reigning MVP.

But Riley can't bring himself to say he's giving up on Oden.

After all, big men aren't found just anywhere. Such is the lure.

"You just don't want to walk away," Riley said, "from that kind of a talent."

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WORLD CUP

South Korea faces early elimination

By Raf Casert
The Associated Press

MOGI DAS CRUZES, Brazil — For South Korea, 2002 is starting to feel like more than just a dozen years ago.

The team that reached the semifinals at its home World Cup in its heyday has been struggling mightily in Brazil, where even a lucky break hasn't managed to bring it close to the second round.

South Korea is staring at an early elimination unless it can somehow beat already-qualified Belgium on Thursday in their final Group H game and have the result of Algeria-Russia go its way.

But the team coached by Hong Myung-bo — who was the captain for its semifinal run in 2002 — still has an almost blind belief that things will turn, somehow.

"We will now do our best to the very end of the competition. That's the only option we have left," Hong said.

His team already benefited from a piece of luck when Russia gifted it the lead in their opening 1-1 draw, when Igor Akinfeev fluffed an easy shot for the biggest goalkeeper blunder so far of the World Cup.

South Korea couldn't hang on to the lead for more than six minutes, though, and its lightweight defense was further exposed when it conceded four goals in a loss to Algeria, making sure its two goals were for naught.

Now it must overcome a Belgium side that is already through to the next round, but wants to keep its perfect record going.

Some key players will be missing for Belgium, though. Since starters Axel Witsel and Toby Alderweireld already have a yellow card and face the threat of suspension, they won't start.

"Our focus is on the second round," said Belgium coach Marc Wilmots.

Wilmots is also considering sidelining captain and central defender Vincent Kompany to spare



Group H
South Korea vs. Belgium
AFN-Sports
9:30 p.m. Thursday CET
4:30 a.m. Friday JKT

his groin from any more strain after he had to miss three days of training in the run-up to Sunday's game against Russia.

Even though Wilmots has successfully relied on a strong bench to get a 2-1 victory over Algeria and a 1-0 win over Russia, the weakened lineup could offer South Korea a chance to force a breakthrough and lift it from its last place in the group right into the second round.

Russia plays Algeria at the same time Thursday, with every team still having a chance at advancing.

Belgium is already through with six points from two games, with Algeria second at three points while Russia and South Korea have one each. Russia, however, has a better goal difference than the Asians.

Even though Belgium will be willing to experiment a bit, it will also try to make sure to finish first and avoid a likely second-round match against the mighty Germans. The United States and Germany now share the lead in Group G but Portugal and Ghana also still have an outside chance to advance.

Wilmots said though, that his team will always want to win any match, whatever the consequence.

"I just want that first place. Whether we play Germany now or later, what's the difference? For all we know, Germany might still finish second in its group," Wilmots said.



JOHN SUPER/AP

South Korea's Kim Shin-wook, left, walks off the pitch with his head down after their 4-2 loss to Algeria in Sunday's Group H match in Porto Alegre, Brazil. South Korea has a tie and a loss.



MICHAEL SOHN/AP

Algeria's Rafik Halliche celebrates scoring his team's second goal during Sunday's Group H match against South Korea in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Algeria has never qualified for the second round.

Unknown territory

Algeria seeks first-ever berth in second round

By Pan Pylas
The Associated Press

CURITIBA, Brazil — Thirty-two years on from one of the most controversial moments in World Cup history, Algeria finally has a real opportunity to reach the second round of the World Cup for the first time.

When it meets Russia on Thursday in Group H in the southern Brazilian city of Curitiba, Algeria knows that a second straight win will mean a place in the last 16. A draw would probably be enough, too — unless South Korea secures a big win over Belgium, which has already qualified.

After a late 1-0 defeat to Belgium in its second game, Russia can only hope to progress with a win. Should South Korea beat Belgium, it would then go down to goal difference between the Russians and South Koreans.

Following the disappointment of losing its opening game to Belgium 2-1, despite being ahead for much of the match, Algeria is now back in contention after a convincing 4-2 victory over South Korea. It was Algeria's first win in the World Cup since 1982.

The performance showed the team's attacking intent with three of the changes from the first game introduced by coach Vahid Halilhodzic getting on the score sheet. Algeria has shown itself



Group H
Algeria vs. Russia
AFN-Xtra
9:30 p.m. Thursday CET
4:30 a.m. Friday JKT

to be well-organized and technically assured, with midfielder Sofiane Feghouli directing much of the team's play.

Qualification could also help erase the bitter memory of 1982 when Algeria failed to progress to the second stage after West Germany and Austria played out a result that suited them both. The two teams, meeting a day after Algeria had won its last group game, knew that a 1-0 win for West Germany would put both through to the second round at Algeria's expense.

After West Germany took an early lead, the game drifted at walking pace and ended with the score unchanged. The embarrassing display prompted FIFA to introduce simultaneous kickoffs for the final group games.

Russia, playing in its first World

Cup since 2002, still has a reasonable chance of advancing.

Fabio Capello's squad of entirely Russian-based players has showed glimpses of potential and pressured Belgium for long stretches but lacked high-quality finishing during a 1-0 defeat. The team was also unlucky in its opening 1-1 draw with South Korea, conceding a soft goal when experienced keeper Igor Akinfeev let the ball slip through his hands.

There's no chance of Capello underestimating Algeria after his experience as coach of England at the 2010 World Cup. For many in England, the 0-0 draw against Algeria in a group game stands out as the most toothless display in a lackluster campaign, even more so than the 4-1 demolition by Germany in the second round.

"We have no other option than to go out and beat Algeria," Capello said, playing down any comparisons between the two games. "If it fails to qualify for the next round, Russia knows it will be playing in the World Cup in 2018 through its status as host."

"After not playing in the World Cup in 12 years, this tournament does a great service to us," said Capello, who has already earned a contract extension through to 2018. "It helps us understand the level at which we need to compete."

WORLD CUP

Group C roundup

Penalty kick lifts Greece

The Associated Press

FORTALEZA, Brazil — Greece doesn't score often at the World Cup, but its goals certainly come at the right time.

Greece doubled its total scoring tally at World Cup tournaments by netting twice against the Ivory Coast on Tuesday — the second coming through an injury-time penalty that secured a 2-1 victory and a spot in the knockout rounds.

Having gone scoreless through its first two games in Brazil — a loss and a draw — the Greeks are now improbably into the round of 16 for the first time in their history — when European powers like Spain, Italy and England are going home.

Ivory Coast only needed a draw to advance at Greece's expense and was a couple of minutes away from celebrating when Georgios Samaras was adjudged to have been tripped in the area by substitute Giovanni Sio. Samaras calmly slotted in the spot kick for a last-gasp win that eliminated the Africans.

"This means so much to me, to us ... Tonight we had energy," Samaras said, dedicating the win to Greeks suffering through financial crisis. "We really hope we can make the people happy back home. We are a team. A team — that's it."

Celebrations erupted in Greece, where the game ended well after midnight. Thousands of fans poured into the streets to celebrate in Athens, and the country's second-largest city Thessaloniki.

The players in Fortaleza danced around in a circle and sang with small groups of travelling fans at Arena Castelao who had been drowned out all night by the pro-African Brazilian crowd.

Greece only scored twice in its previous two World Cup tournaments and lost its opening game in Brazil to eventual Group C winner Colombia 3-0 before holding Japan 0-0.

On Tuesday, it took the lead just before halftime through substitute Andreas Samaras, who punished Ivorian Ismael Tiote for a careless pass backward.

Colombia 4, Japan 1: At Cuiaba, Brazil, James Rodriguez scored a brilliant goal and set up two more for Jackson Martinez as Colombia routed Japan to confirm top spot in Group C and eliminate the Asian champions from the World Cup.

Already assured of advancing, Colombia guaranteed first place with its third straight win, setting up a second-round match against Uruguay. Japan finished with a draw and two losses in a disappointing campaign.

The Colombians started with a virtual second-string lineup but still went in front when Juan Cuadrado — one of the few regular starters — drilled in a 17th-minute penalty.

Japan equalized with the last touch of the first half through Shinji Okazaki's header but Martinez scored in the 55th and 82nd minutes — both from superb passes from substitute Rodriguez — to put the result beyond doubt.

Rodriguez capped it off with his stunning solo goal in the 89th, turning his marker inside out before chipping the advancing goalkeeper with a deft finish that bore all the hallmarks of the great Lionel Messi.



HASSAN AMMAR/AP

Uruguay's Luis Suarez holds his teeth after the biting incident with Italy's Giorgio Chiellini. Uruguay won the match 1-0.

FIFA investigating bite

Uruguay's Suarez faces discipline

The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Luis Suarez could become just as awkward for football's international organizers to handle as he has been for rival teams at the World Cup.

The Uruguay forward's alleged bite into the left shoulder of Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini in a crucial group-stage game has hit a raw nerve at a tournament which has been characterized by a high quality of football and entertainment.

The consequences of Suarez's bite — just before Uruguay scored the clinching goal to knock out the four-time champion Italians — will now test FIFA president Sepp Blatter's often-stated commitment to "fair play, discipline, respect."

Blatter, who was in the crowd for the Uruguay-Italy match at Natal, has previously pledged a zero tolerance for the darker side of the game. Many are questioning where that leaves a player like Suarez, the star Liverpool striker who has a history of disciplinary problems.

In the early hours of Wednesday, FIFA announced it had opened a disciplinary case against the player.

The incident occurred at about the 80th minute when Suarez and Chiellini got tangled up in front of the Italy goal. The apparent romp changed in an instant, but caught by television cameras, it became a worldwide sensation, and could lead to Suarez being kicked out of the World Cup.

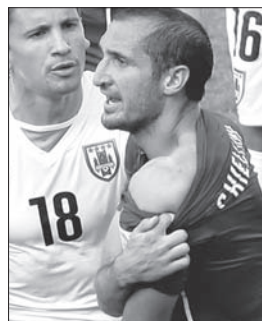
Rules allow ban of up to 2 years

Luis Suarez could be banned by FIFA for up to 24 matches or two years for apparently biting Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini, according to the governing body's disciplinary rules.

The code allows for suspensions to be applied by time or number of international matches.

"Unless otherwise specified, it may not exceed twenty-four matches or twenty-four months," Article 19 of the FIFA code states.

— The Associated Press



HASSAN AMMAR/AP

Italy's Giorgio Chiellini displays his shoulder showing apparent teeth marks from Uruguay's Luis Suarez during Tuesday's Group D match at the Arena das Dunas in Natal, Brazil.

of the best defenders in the world and known for his physical play — had hit him in the eye during the game.

"These are things that happen on the pitch, we were both in the area, he thrust his shoulder into me," Suarez said in Spanish. "These things happen on the pitch, and we don't have to give them so much (importance)."

The referee didn't see a bite, and no foul was called despite Chiellini pleading and pulling down his jersey to show a red mark on his left shoulder.

About a minute later, Uruguay scored the winning goal in a 1-0 game that sent Italy home.

Suarez has twice before been disciplined for biting opponents in league games.

Suarez didn't confirm or deny the bite, but said he was angry that Chiellini — one

WORLD CUP

Group F roundup

Argentina, Nigeria advance

Bosnia holds off Iran, sending African nation to knockout round

The Associated Press

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil — Argentina beat Nigeria 3-2 in their last World Cup group match on Wednesday, with Lionel Messi and Ahmed Musa scoring two goals each before Marcelo Rojo kned in the winner.

Argentina won Group F while Nigeria also advanced despite the loss, becoming the first African team in the round of 16 in Brazil.

Messi opened the scoring in the third minute, slamming in the rebound after Angel Di Maria's shot bounced off the post. Nigeria replied within a minute as Musa cut in from the left and beat Sergio Romero with a curling shot toward the far post.

Messi's perfectly hooked free kick restored the lead for Argentina just before halftime. The Argentina captain has scored in each of the team's three matches, and now has a total of four goals.

The second half started at the same furious pace as the first, with two goals within the first five minutes. First Musa took advantage of confusion in the Argentine defense to score his sec-

ond. Then Rojo made it 3-2 as he got his right knee on a corner kick three minutes later.

Both teams continued to chase more goals but the intensity dropped off somewhat as Argentine coach Alejandro Sabella substituted Messi after the hour mark.

Tens of thousands of Argentine fans had traveled to Porto Alegre for the match, taunting Brazilian spectators by singing "Maradona is greater than Pele" at the 44,000-capacity Beira-Rio Stadium.

The Brazilians booed and held up five fingers to remind the Argentines of how many World Cups they've won. Argentina has two.

Meanwhile, tragedy struck in Nigeria before the match, as an explosion rocked a shopping mall in the capital, Abuja, and police said at least 21 people were killed.

The blast came as Nigerians were preparing to watch the World Cup match. Many shops at the mall have TV screens but it was unclear if the explosion was timed to coincide with the match, which started an hour later.

Bosnia 3, Iran 1: At Salvador, Brazil, Bosnia-Herzegovina ended Iran's hopes of advancing to the knockout stages and registered its first World Cup win in the process with a victory in Group F.

The Bosnians took a commanding 2-0 lead with goals from Edin Dzeko in the 23rd and Miralem Pjanic in the 53rd before Iran hit back.

Reza Ghoochannejhad gave some hope to the Iranians with a tap-in goal in the 81st, but Avdija Vrsaljic replied immediately with his low shot from the edge of the area to restore the two-goal buffer.

Iran needed a win to have any chance of advancing. The Bosnians were already out of contention following consecutive losses to Argentina and Nigeria.

Bosnia created most of the chances in the match, with Dzeko — criticized for missing several opportunities during Bosnia's two previous matches — firing a volley over the bar in the third minute, and then heading straight onto the Iranian goalkeeper.



MICHAEL SOHN/AP

Argentina's Lionel Messi, left, gets a lift from a teammate as he celebrates scoring his side's first goal during the Group F match against Nigeria in Porto Alegre, Brazil, on Wednesday.

Scoreboard

First round									
x-advanced to second round									
GROUP A									
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts			
x-Brazil	2	0	1	7	2	7			
x-Mexico	2	1	1	4	3	4			
Croatia	1	2	0	6	6	3			
Cameroun	0	3	0	1	9	0			
Thursday, June 12									
Brazil 3, Croatia 1									
Friday, June 13									
Mexico 1, Cameroun 0									
Tuesday, June 17									
Brazil 0, Mexico 0									
Wednesday, June 18									
Croatia 4, Cameroun 0									
Monday, June 23									
Brazil 4, Cameroun 1									
Mexico 3, Croatia 1									
GROUP B									
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts			
x-Netherlands	3	0	0	10	3	9			
x-Chile	2	1	0	5	3	6			
Spain	2	2	0	4	3	6			
Australia	0	3	0	3	9	0			
Friday, June 13									
Netherlands 5, Spain 1									
Chile 3, Australia 1									
Wednesday, June 18									
Netherlands 3, Australia 2									
Chile 2, Spain 0									
Monday, June 23									
Spain 3, Australia 0									
Netherlands 2, Chile 0									
GROUP C									
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts			
x-Colombia	3	0	0	9	2	9			
x-Greece	1	1	2	4	5	3			
Ivory Coast	1	2	0	4	5	3			
Japan	0	3	1	2	6	1			
Saturday, June 14									
Ivory Coast 2, Japan 1									
Thursday, June 19									
Colombia 2, Ivory Coast 1									
Tuesday, June 24									
Colombia 4, Japan 1									
Greece 2, Ivory Coast 1									
GROUP D									
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts			
x-Italy	2	0	1	4	1	7			
x-Costa Rica	2	1	0	3	2	6			
Honduras	1	2	0	2	3	3			
England	0	2	2	2	4	3			
Saturday, June 14									
Costa Rica 3, Uruguay 1									
Thursday, June 19									
Uruguay 2, England 1									
Friday, June 20									
Costa Rica 2, Uruguay 2									
Tuesday, June 24									
Uruguay 1, Italy 0									
Costa Rica 0, England 0									
GROUP E									
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts			
France	2	0	0	8	2	6			
Ecuador	1	1	0	3	2	3			
Switzerland	1	1	0	4	3	3			
Honduras	0	3	1	1	9	0			
Saturday, June 14									
Switzerland 2, Ecuador 1									
Friday, June 20									
France 5, Switzerland 2									
Wednesday, June 25									
Switzerland vs. Honduras									
Ecuador vs. France									
GROUP F									
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts			
x-Argentina	3	0	0	6	3	9			
x-Nigeria	1	1	1	3	3	4			
Bosnia-Herzegovina	2	0	0	4	3	6			
Iran	0	2	1	1	4	1			
Sunday, June 15									
Argentina 2, Bosnia-Herzegovina 1									
Monday, June 16									
Iran 0, Nigeria 0									
Tuesday, June 21									
Argentina 1, Iran 0									
Wednesday, June 25									
Nigeria 1, Bosnia-Herzegovina 0									
Argentina 3, Nigeria 2									
Bosnia-Herzegovina 3, Iran 1									
GROUP G									
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts			
Germany	1	0	1	6	2	4			
United States	1	0	1	4	3	4			
Ghana	0	1	1	3	4	1			
Russia	0	1	1	2	6	1			
Monday, June 16									
Germany 4, Portugal 0									
Tuesday, June 21									
United States 2, Ghana 1									
Saturday, June 22									
Germany 2, United States 2									
Thursday, June 26									
At Recife, Brazil									
Germany vs. United States									
Portugal vs. Brazil									
GROUP H									
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts			
x-Belgium	1	0	1	3	1	3			
Algeria	1	1	0	5	4	3			
South Korea	0	1	1	3	5	1			
Tuesday, June 17									
Belgium 2, Algeria 1									
Sunday, June 22									
Russia 1, South Korea 1									
Thursday, June 26									
At Fortaleza, Brazil									
Belgium vs. Mexico									
Costa Rica vs. Greece									
Monday, June 30									
At Salvador, Brazil									
Group G winner vs. Nigeria									
At Porto Alegre, Brazil									
Group G winner vs. Group H second place									
Tuesday, July 1									
At Sao Paulo									
Argentina vs. Group E second place									
Group H winner vs. Group G second place									

Portugal, Ghana must win, keep their fingers crossed

By STEVE DOUGLAS
The Associated Press

CUIABA, Brazil — Whether at international or club level, Cristiano Ronaldo's goals, skills and mere presence has got his various teams out of many sticky situations during the years.

Yet even the world player of the year may have met his match at the World Cup, considering the size of the task he faces with Portugal on Thursday.

Arguably the most hotly contested group in Brazil reaches its climax with both qualification spots still up for grabs heading into the final round of fixtures in Group G.

Portugal and Ghana both need to win when they meet in Brasilia — but both know they are in the mercy of a match being played simultaneously more than 1,200 miles away, Germany vs. the United States in Recife.

With Germany and the U.S. on four points, a draw would put both teams through to the last 16. In that case, the outcome of the game between Portugal and Ghana, who are on one point, would not matter.

Portugal's task is even harder because its goal difference is minus-4, much worse than the Germans (plus-4) and the Americans (plus-1).

"We're depending on third parties," a resigned-looking Portugal



Group G
Ghana vs. Portugal
AFN-Xtra
5:30 p.m. Thursday CET
12:30 a.m. Friday JKT

coach Paulo Bento said. "We're depending on results of other teams."

Ghana, which has a goal difference of minus-1, has more hope. A victory in the Brazilian capital, combined with a win for Germany, could see it qualify instead of the U.S.

Conspiracy theories have gone into overdrive since Portugal's last-gasp equalizer in the 2-2 draw with the United States, which left everyone in the group alive. Cynics point to West Germany's 1-0 victory against Austria in the 1982 World Cup and the 2-2 draw between Denmark and Sweden in the 2004 European Championship as examples of teams securing mutually beneficial results.

But the Portuguese only have themselves to blame for leaving the team in such a dire situation. Poor, even before Pepe's silly red

card for head-butting in an opening 4-0 loss to Germany, they also failed to play like a side ranked No. 4 by FIFA against the United States. Only Silvestre Varela's header with 30 seconds left of five minutes of stoppage time kept them in World Cup contention.

"We're probably just an average team. I'd be lying if I said we were a top team," said Ronaldo, whose only noteworthy contribution in 180 minutes of action in Brazil was the perfect cross that set up Varela for his goal.

"Recently I haven't been how I had hoped," added the Real Madrid star, "given the Real Madrid star, who has been nursing a left knee injury throughout the tournament."

Pepe, the Real Madrid center back, is available again after suspension.

Ghana has offered more in Brazil than Portugal, and could be considered unlucky to have just one point to show from its efforts after losing 2-1 to the Americans and drawing 2-2 against Germany.

The 2010 quarterfinalists will be without one of their best players, midfielder Sulley Muntari, and are expected to stick with the same attacking philosophy they have adopted so far.

"I always believe that the best way to defend is to attack," Ghana coach James Appiah said after the Germany game.

WORLD CUP

Bradley facing high expectations in Brazil

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Michael Bradley stuck out his right foot to meet Fabian Johnson's pass, ready to slot the ball into the empty net from 6 yards out. Surely this would be a goal.

Then the ball struck Portuguese defender Ricardo Costa on a knee in front of the goal line and ricocheted away. Bradley stopped at a post, put a hand on each cheek and closed his eyes in shock, as if he had seen a ghost.

It's been that type of World Cup for the U.S. midfielder.

His night got even worse when he was stripped of the ball late in stoppage time, leading to Portugal's tying goal in Sunday night's 2-2 draw.

‘He has an engine that’s unbelievable. He’s covering up for other players all over the place.’

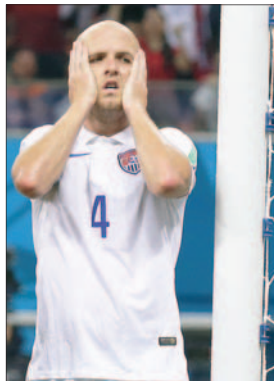
Jürgen Klinsmann
affiliation

“In the game there’s a million of these kind of plays,” the 26-year-old Bradley said afterward in the bowels of Arena da Amazonia.

The U.S. may need at least a tie Thursday against three-time champion Germany to reach the knockout stage of consecutive World Cups for the first time and keep the record number of fans tuned in back home. Teammates count on Bradley's end-to-end play both to drive the attack and stiffen their defense.

Bradley ran 13,922 yards against Ghana and 13,346 versus Portugal, according to FIFA. Among players with two games, only Australia's Matt McKay covered more. Most have been expected of Bradley ever since he trained with the national team for the first time before the 2006 World Cup, when coach Bruce Arena gave the then-18-year-old his national team debut against Venezuela.

He became a regular during the next four-year cycle when his dad, Bob Bradley, took over as coach. And by the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, he had transformed into one of the top American players, part of the spine along with Landon Donovan, Clint Dempsey



MARTIN MEJIA/AP

American Michael Bradley reacts after his shot on an open goal was blocked by Portugal's Ricardo Costa during their 2-2 tie on Sunday. After a slow start against Ghana, Bradley led the U.S. with 65 completed passes and 75 attempts.

and Tim Howard. He scored the tying goal against Slovenia, helping the Americans reach the second round.

But in this year's opener against Ghana, he had little impact in the match when compared with his past performances. That was despite completing 42 of 56 passes, both team highs.

“I’m certainly honest enough and hard enough with myself to know that it wasn’t my sharpest night, but unfortunately they’re not all going to be,” he said. “I think as a team we realized at a certain point that it wasn’t going to be a night making a million passes or necessarily playing the most beautiful soccer, but it was about running and tackling and closing down and making the game hard on Ghana.”

He was far more dominant against Portu-

gal, again leading the U.S. with 65 completed passes and 75 attempts.

“Michael is undoubtedly one of our key players,” said Jürgen Klinsmann, who succeeded the elder Bradley three years ago. “He has an engine that’s unbelievable. He’s covering up for other players all over the place. His vision and his passing is just outstanding. Here and there it’s not going to be a perfect game.”

Bradley's final moments against Portugal were especially frustrating. Eder shoved him off the ball, stole it and made a short pass to Nani, who sent it up the field and wide to Cristiano Ronaldo. The world player of the year sent a 25-yard cross into the box, which was headed by Varella past Howard with about 30 seconds left in five minutes of stoppage time, preventing the U.S. from clinching advancement with a game to spare.

Ninety minutes later, Bradley already was looking ahead toward the game against Germany in Recife.

“We have a big belief in ourselves and what we can do and what we’re all about,” he said.

Bradley comes from a big sports family. His father went on to coach Egypt from 2011-13 and currently is with Norway's Stabæk, the first American to coach a European first-division team. Uncle Scott, a former big league catcher, has been Princeton's baseball coach for 17 seasons. Uncle Jeff is a longtime reporter known for his soccer and baseball coverage.

Soccer has allowed Michael to see the world during stints with the New York-New Jersey MetroStars, Heerenveen (Netherlands), Borussia Mönchengladbach (Germany), Aston Villa (England), Chievo Verona and Roma (Italy), and now Toronto FC, which gave him a \$6.5 million salary this year that trails only Seattle's Dempsey in Major League Soccer. Bradley has gained knowledge of tactics and style — in addition to learning Italian, Dutch and German.

Klinsmann is counting on him against Germany, the nation he helped lead to the 1990 World Cup title and coached to the 2006 semifinals.

“I’m absolutely sure that Michael will grow big into this tournament,” he said. “Every game you play now is getting bigger.”

Keeping: Teammates appreciate Howard's communication

FROM BACK PAGE

minute of stoppage time in buggy, muggy Manaus. When Varella's header sailed into the net off a beautiful cross from two-time world player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo, Howard instantly put his hands on his head and sighed.

If only the game had ended about 30 seconds earlier.

“Football’s cruel sometimes. It ebbs and flows,” said Howard, who has seven saves through two games. “We try and take every result as it comes. Our training sessions have been light and lively. We’ve got a great chance with the Group of Death, they say, to go through and advance, so we’re excited. I think we had one foot in the door, so there’s a small bit of disappointment.”

One of the best goalkeepers in the world and a star with Everton in England's Premier League, Howard had 15 shutouts — one behind co-leaders Petr Cech of Chelsea and Wojciech Szczesny of Arsenal — in 37 league matches this season before joining the

Americans last month for training camp in Northern California.

A back four of defenders that was scrutinized ahead of this World Cup for its lack of experience is quick to hug the big man. Howard's hollering is something each player considers one of the most important factors in keeping everybody organized.

“He had three or four huge saves. That’s what we expect from him,” central defender Matt Besler said. “One of Tim Howard's biggest qualities is his communication. He gets the best out of everybody. Everything starts with him. The organization. The confidence. He’s talking to us almost too much. It feels like, but it’s great. I tell him I never want him to stop talking. Even if I know what to do, he’s still telling me what to do. Everything kind of starts with him.”

Portugal certainly peppered him from every angle.

Despite the near miss and late-game disappointment, coach Jürgen Klinsmann has all the

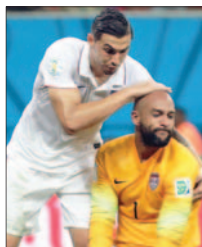
confidence the U.S. will be ready to go again Thursday against his home country. He helped lead Germany win the 1990 World Cup and then coached Germany to an improbable semifinal run on home soil in 2006.

“That’s what a World Cup is all about, and you live through those emotions positively and negatively,” Klinsmann said. “You’ve just got to kind of cross it off your mind and move on. And we’re going to move on quickly. We’re going to take this point now and we’re going to do everything now gearing toward Germany.”

There is some thought this could be Howard's World Cup. He signed a two-year contract extension with Everton in April that takes him through 2018 and a likely finish to his career with the club. Backup Brad Guzan is the U.S. No. 1 goalkeeper in waiting.

Before Howard contemplates his future with the national team, he hopes to extend this run for as long as possible.

“Realistically we’ve given our-



JULIO CORTES/AP

Geoff Cameron pats U.S. goalie Tim Howard after he made a save against Portugal.

selfs every chance to advance, so we’re optimistic,” he said. “We’re pretty much right where we wanted to be when we started this whole process. We wanted to be going into the last game feeling like we have a chance, and we do.”

Did you know

Michael
Bradley ran
13,922
yards against
Ghana, and
13,346 against
Portugal.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

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SPORTS

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WORLD CUP



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

U.S. goalkeeper Tim Howard will make his 103rd international appearance when the Americans play Germany on Thursday in their Group G finale. It will be the most appearances ever by an American keeper, and the team is counting on some spectacular saves to advance to the knockout round.

Keeping faith

US confident steadfast goalie Howard can help them stay alive

By JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

RECIFE, Brazil — Tim Howard rarely makes it through a game without accepting multiple celebratory embraces from relieved American teammates.

It happens almost every time the U.S. goalkeeper launches his solid, 6-foot-3 frame to make spectacular saves — diving, leaping and even punching the ball away for difficult stops.

There were a number of such moments Sunday night in a 2-2 tie against Portugal, and the Americans are counting on more of the same

when they face three-time champion Germany on Thursday with a berth in the World Cup's knockout round at stake.

The 35-year-old Howard will reach an impressive milestone in the process: The Group G finale will be his 103rd international appearance, passing Kasey Keller for the most by an American goalkeeper.

Not that it's even on Howard's mind with the U.S. trying to reach the knockout stage of consecutive World Cups for the first time. The Americans were in position to advance Sunday before they surrendered a goal in the fifth

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On AFN

USA
vs.
Germany
AFN-Sports
5 p.m.
Thursday CET;
midnight
Thursday JKT



Uruguay's
Luis Suarez
PETE DAVID JOSEK/AP

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issues put career on hold | **NBA, Page 27**

